

**Our Lady on the River Parish Council Minutes
Monday, April 20, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fr. Jim Lopez	David Schwehofer (V-Pres.)	Stephanie Spencer
Fr. Matt Ellis	Catherine Nutter (Sec.)	Paul S. Ivan
Sr. Mary Ann Ankoviak, CSJ		

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Matt Fett III (Pres.)	Bev Simon
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OTHERS PRESENT:

Judy Beauvais	Bobbi Ivan	Mary Endres
Sr. Geraldine Arnold	Pam LaBelle	Carol Fett

OPENING At 6:35 Fr. Jim opened the meeting in prayer.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES Paul Ivan motioned to approve the March minutes; Mary Endres seconded; all agreed.

AUDIENCE ADDRESS

Carol Fett thanked Fr. Jim and Sr. Mary Ann for implementing the **Vocation Crucifix Program** in the parish during Lent.

Fr. Jim said the practice would continue, asking for families or individuals to take the crucifix home at the end of the 9:30 Holy Cross Mass and the 10:00 St. Catherine Mass. The St. Mark site would also have a similar program.

Fr. Jim suggested sending some of what has been written in the journals by parishioners to our seminarians. Some of the responses have already been published in the parish bulletin and will continue to be published in order to share the experiences.

VICARIATE PARISH COUNCIL Bobbi Ivan reported on the March 11th VPC meeting that she and Catherine Nutter attended:

1. Starting in March 2009, all **group/committee reports will be submitted prior to the VPC meeting** so that they can be distributed with the agenda. Future reporting at VPC meetings will only be for questions, clarifications and emphasis of points. It is hoped that this will allow more time during the VPC meetings to accomplish goals and objectives.

2. The **Archdiocesan Tracking Committee met with VPC representatives** on February 24th to review the Vicariate's report from last November.

The committee commended our Vicariate for:

- a. our work in **social outreach** regarding food, clothing and shelter for the homeless
- b. the smooth transition and the success of the **three merged parish communities** in our vicariate
- c. our attempts at **youth and young adult outreach**
- d. our catechesis on **stewardship**
- e. the strong, united work of the **vicariate DREs**

- f. our **support of Catholic education** with our 5% stewardship of our Sunday offertory collections

It was recommended that we:

- a. **strengthen our Hispanic outreach** [*note that we have started meeting with St. Clair County's Hispanic Council, an ecumenical group associated with Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission*]
- b. proceed with finding resources for those in our vicariate who have lost their jobs or are in danger of losing their homes [*note that we are working with the **Homelessness Prevention and Crisis Project (HPCP)**, as was reported at the February 2009 meeting*].

3. Bobbi asked Fr. Jim if there was any interest in our parish for vicariate training for **Funeral Wake/Vigil teams**. Fr. Jim said "no."

4. The Directors of Religious Education proposed **Adult Faith Formation** at the vicariate level – for example, a guest-speakers forum or a vicariate mission. This would enable events that each Parish may be unable to afford alone.

Fr. Jim said he had spoken to a priest at a neighboring vicariate about a similar program that they had, and he was told that it was a successful program with a good response. Bishop Flores was the main speaker and celebrant at the conclusion of the program, and it was well-attended.

5. Information was distributed about **free CFLs** for non-profits/religious groups from lightingsupply.com [*note: this information has already been forwarded to our parish office*].

Fr. Jim said that the parish has taken advantage of this offer and has gotten 200 light bulbs.

Once approved, the complete minutes are available on the Vicariate website, <http://www.bluewatervicariate.org>

Paul Ivan added to the Vicariate Report:

6. Mike Wendlin of Channel 4 News will be at the next VPC meeting sharing details about a new program he is facilitating: **Job Network**. Its aim is to help people find employment, and its resources will be available to the St. Vincent de Paul members.

7. In addition, St. Vincent de Paul members will have the opportunity to take **Green Path**, which is a course in finances, in order to better enable them to counsel clients in matters dealing with money.

PASTOR'S REPORT

1. This Tuesday we will welcome **Bishop Flores** for our students' Confirmation.

2. Fr. Jim received a **financial review** from representatives of the AOD. The report is not concluded yet; someone from the AOD will be at the next parish council meeting to give an overview of the parish's finances and merger.

3. This Sunday all Masses will play a recording of Archbishop Vigneron giving this year's **CSA appeal**. This year's goal is \$110,000. Letters will be sent out shortly to parishioners.

Stephanie asked how this year's goal compares to last year's goal. Fr. Jim said it's approximately \$15,000 more. Paul Ivan commented that we fell short of last year's goal by about \$14,000.

4. Carnegie Construction has begun work at **Cardinal Mooney**.

5. Holy Cross has received some **sewer damage** near the Activity Center and parking lot. Repairs will cost around \$25,000. There have been recurring problems with water back-ups in the school and boiler room for some time now.

6. Holy Cross School will make **staff adjustments** for next year due to low enrollment. One teacher's contract will not be renewed; the 4th and 5th grade classes will be a split class next year.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Stewardship

Fr. Jim reported that the stewardship committee will be meeting in a couple weeks to go over **a) the grounds** and **b) the budget(s)**.

Christian Service

Sr. Mary Ann reported on behalf of the Christian service representative, Virginia D'Antoni: There will be a **blood drive** at Holy Cross on June 28.

Education

Catherine Nutter reported on behalf of Margie Smith (DRE):

1. The "**Circle of Grace**" program was presented in all religious education classes on March 23rd and 24th. The program is designed to raise awareness for kids concerning possible improper behavior towards them from adults. The information is presented in the context that we are all God's children and all have the right to be safe.

2. The second grade classes will make their **First Communion** this Saturday at both Holy Cross (11 a.m.) and St. Catherine (4 p.m.).

3. The eighth graders will celebrate **Confirmation** this Tuesday at Holy Cross (6 p.m.) with Bishop Flores.

4. The **Lenten Rice Bowl** program brought in approximately \$235 (as of March 14), which was a good amount considering the fact that students did not have a long period of time to collect.

5. **Registration** forms for next year's Catechism classes have gone out and quite a few have already come back.

6. **Next year's classes** will begin Sept. 14.

7. Margie Smith said that she is **grateful for the teachers** who give of their time to teach Catechism.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Catherine Nutter reported that the "**Living Stations of the Cross**" presented by the worship commission and the parish's youth was a moving and prayerful experience. She shared some pictures showing a few of the stations.

2. In response to Carol Fett's audience address from February's meeting (in which she stated that she had wished more had been done parish-wide during National Vocation Awareness Week), Catherine Nutter passed out copies of the AOD Vocation Office's newsletter *The Vocare* (Winter 2009) and an email sent out from Jan DeFour, AOD vocation coordinator.

Catherine said that we can be taking steps to promote vocations on an individual level. One way to get involved is to attend the annual **Vocations Convocation**, which will be September 19th this year. Archbishop Vigneron will be the celebrant at the Mass. Registration for this event will begin in May; more information will be in the spring edition of *The Vocare* or online at the AOD's vocation website.

3. Stephanie Spencer said she could provide Fr. Jim with more details about St. Mark's spring cleaning request. She wondered if this topic was one that the stewardship commission would be discussing. It has been more than 10 years since a major cleaning like the one being requested has been done at the St. Mark site.

Fr. Jim said St. Mark has a representative on the stewardship commission and that St. Mark's request for the spring cleaning was on the agenda to be addressed.

NEW BUSINESS / MEMBER REPORTS None.

CONCLUDING PRAYER At 7:04, Mary Endres closed the meeting with *Philippians*:

*Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me,
Then the God of peace will be with you.*

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Nutter
Parish Council Secretary