

SAINT AMBROSE
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
DATE: November 25, 2009

Call to Order: Dave Urbanski, President

Prayer: Father Scott Nobbe

Roll Call/Visitors: **P/A**

Tim Keenan (1 st Year) P		Visitors:
Dave Urbanski-President (3 rd Year) P		Mike East, Deacon
Jim McCormick-School Commission A	P	Bill Coons, Youth Council
Jeanette Burbank-Spiritual Life A		Enrique Nieves, Youth Council
Joan/Leonard Elsner-Stewardship P		Denny Frey, Finance Council
Cindi Dennis-Finance Council A		Ron Luther, Business Manager
David Geis- Secretary/At-Large (2 nd Year) P		
Deb Bedwell- V.P./At-Large (3 rd Year) P		
Kitty Lewis-Community Life and Service A		
Scott Lanam (1 st Year) P		
Mark Nowling – Faith Formation P		
Sharon Koch - At Large (1 st Year) A		
Ernesto Enriquez (2 nd Year) P		
Fr. Scott Nobbe – Pastor P		

Roll Call: Per above, quorum present

Visitors: Per above

Minutes Approval: By motion of Joan Elsner, seconded by Deb Bedwell, the minutes of the parish council meeting held on October 28, 2009 were approved.

Guest Presenter: Bill Coons and Enrique Nieves attended the PC meeting as guests to report on their experience at the recent 2009 Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City, MO. They reported that 11 youth attended from St. Ambrose. They described their experience as very worthwhile, eye opening, enjoyable and moving in many ways. Bill and Enrique fielded questions from several Council members. They were encouraged to remain involved in the Youth Council of St. Ambrose and encourage others to attend the conference in the future. Following their presentation, they left the meeting.

Pastor's Comments: Fr. Scott reported on the "Dashboard" item related to the proposed parishes vision statement that has been adopted by this council but remained under review and consideration by Our Lady of Providence Parish the last several months. The outcome of OLP's review was that they prefer to develop and adopt their own vision statement. With this decision made, St. Ambrose can now move forward with informing, advocating and promoting its vision statement throughout St. Ambrose.

Fr. Scott then reminded all council and commission members of the importance of practicing "inclusion in parish communications and presentations. He noted a recent example of an announcement in the bulletin that was not multilingual and should have been. Discussion ensued on making it widely known the resource in the parish for translation services, such as posting this in the bulletin or on the parish web site ongoing.

He reminded council members of the scheduled service for Thanksgiving Day. He encouraged PC members and all of St. Ambrose parishioners to do something special for themselves during Advent to reflect, be involved, understand and to appreciate the meaning of Advent. He updated members on the progress of the web site development and the potential for adding a Facebook page directed primarily for youth. Finally, Fr. Scott recommended a book he recently read entitled, "The Holy Longing", by Fr. Rohleiser

Commission Reports:

School Commission: Jim McCormick noted that the November meeting minutes of the School Commission are posted on the Parish web site. He expressed general concern for the lower parish revenue and the potential impact upon the school. He informed Council members that he is looking to be replaced as the Parish Council representative in the near future, citing the importance of obtaining “fresh blood” and the time he has contributed in recent years to both the school, school commission and parish council. Final reports were again given on the Hit and Giggle and Guardian Angel fundraising events.

Community Life & Service: Due to the absence of Kitty Lewis, no report was given.

Spiritual Life Commission: Due to the absence of Jeanette Burbank, no report was given. A report of this Commission’s meetings of October 27th and November 24th are available on the Parish web site.

Faith Formation: Mark Nowling reported a short meeting of the Faith Formation Commission was held in November, with plans to pick up momentum in December. He noted the Speaker Series beginning this week in the Parish Center and that the Catholic Book Store is to start opening this Sunday.

Stewardship Commission (Buildings and Grounds): Joan and Leonard Elsner reported that this commission did not meet during November. Joan gave a report on the Stewardship speaker series, saying that attendance ranged from 30 to 40 parishioners, a somewhat disappointing turnout. As of November 22nd, 64 pledge cards had been turned in, indicating the process had a ways to go. It was noted that Building and Grounds committee members had worked approximately 100 man hours on the rectory office renovation. Great appreciation was extended to those who have contributed their time, talent and other resources to this worthy project. The sealing of the church brick is approximately 75% complete at this time.

Spanish Ministry: Ernesto Enrique was present but gave no report.

Finance Council: Cindi Dennis was not present for the meeting. However, Denny Fry represented the Finance Council. Minutes of the Finance Council

meeting held November 19, 2009 were provided to PC members. Mr Frey reported on key items from these minutes including: concern for parish Sunday collections shortfall and related budget variances. This is leading to the need to closely scrutinize commission budgets. The fiscal 2011 subsidy to St. Ambrose school will, once again, be set at 50% of the Sunday collections from the period January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. Several Legacy of our Mission pledges are past due and total \$29,421. Total remaining pledges payable amount to \$85,068.84.

The Parish will undergo an Internal Control Assessment by Monroe Shine. This process occurs every two to three year and is helpful and appropriate for the sound administration of the parish.

The financial summary through the end of October is:

Revenues below last year's by \$28,000; expenses even with last year.

Parish assets total \$1,910,571, a decrease of \$766,000 from the same time last year. The difference continues to be primarily related to the severely decreased market value of parish endowment funds, with some recovery noted due to market improvement since last year.

Old Business: Progress and discussion continue with regard to youth representation on the Parish Council. Mark Nowling will continue to work on this and report at future meetings. It was agreed this matter will be placed on "Dashboard Items" in the future.

(Dashboard Items) Work continues on the 150th anniversary of St. Ambrose Parish by the ad hoc committee. It was reported by Fr. Scott that Our Lady of Providence has decided to pursue their own Vision Statement. With this decision, it was agreed that work and planning should begin on communicating St. Ambrose Vision through out the Parish. This item will now be removed from Dashboard. President Urbanski reminded all PC members to think of and recommend guest speakers for future meetings to inform us of special and ongoing activities within the parish and to thank those who are leading these special ministries.

New Business: A proposal was made for a new Policy/Procedure regarding appropriations requests, both within and outside of the annual budget. Review and discussion ensued on the proposed document. A number of concerns and

suggestions were made and it was concluded that more work should be done to clarify the intent and wording within the document. Upon motion by Dave Urbanski, seconded by Scott Lanam and carried, the procedure and form were respectfully rejected at first reading with the Policy/Procedure being refereed back to the Finance Council for further work. It is requested that the revised document and form be provided to PC members in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting for ample time to review before voting on it.

President Urbanski pointed out the timing of the next regularly scheduled Parish Council meeting being December 23rd, very close to Christmas. After discussion, it was the consensus that a Christmas social would be held, including spouses at 7:00pm on Sunday, December 20, 2009 at the Parish Center. All are to bring light snacks and/or deserts.

Adjournment: Upon motion of Deb Bedwell, seconded by Mark Nowling and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

President Urbanski closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by

David Geis

Secretary