

ST. Bernard's Parish Council

September 10, 2009 - Minutes

Opening Prayer - Fr. David

Role call

Fr. David

Council

D. Gayvert L. Gipe M. Rheaume
R. Heinz P. Dunbar
R. Brown J. Moorhouse

Approval of Minutes

June minutes were approved

Committee Reports

Education

Children

Children's Faith Formation Registration: This year our theme is "You are God's Work of Art". The registration table has been in the back of the church since August 14. K - 4 classes will begin September 14. Student registrations are almost 100 and we have 21 volunteers. We could still use a few more volunteers.

Faith Formation Facelift: Friday, August 28 and Saturday, August 29, a team of volunteers led by Bob Murphy painted the K - 3 classrooms in Daly Hall. The following members of the Knights of Columbus, Children's Faith Formation and Youth Group worked hard to create a more inviting and exciting environment for our students and adult volunteers: Bob Murphy, Bill Brown, Shane and Castle Salisbury, Mark and Bailey Rheaume, Sara Cameron, Anna Grace McCullough, Maggie and Celeste Petesch and Melissa Smith. The rooms are truly colorful and the feedback has been tremendously positive!

Sunday School: Kristin Voigt will lead the Sunday School Program again this year. Classes will start September 20.

RCIC: The Rite of Christian Initiation for Children program will begin September 21.

Informational Parents Meeting: We had an informational parents meeting on Tuesday, September 8 @ 6:30 pm in Daly Hall. Two families attended.

Confirmation/First Eucharist 2010: This will occur sometime during the week of April 10 - 18. Bishop Milone will be the Celebrant. Last year's first grade classes totaled 37 students. We are estimating that the class for 2010 will be approximately 45 students.

Teens

Youth group this summer was busier than ever. On top of regular weekly meetings with the 5th/6th grade, junior high, and high school groups we also had a weekly folk group, worship night on the rims four times, a monthly Christian book club, two lock-ins, two huge rafting trips, caving, a three day camping trip, and a week long trip up to Legendary Lodge. Not only did we offer a lot of events and activities but we also had a ton of youth participate this summer with some youth group's nights having as many as 45 youth show up. We are starting up youth group again on Sept. 15th and 16th with a root beer kegger. This year we have nights on community, evangelization, Legendary Lodge, who am I?, fear factor, worship, current events, thanksgiving, trusting God, Advent, and forgiveness. We also have a trip to the Corn Maize planned for Oct. 13th and 14th as well as a high school lock-in coming up. We have a great team of volunteers with coming in, but are still looking for one or two more volunteers for the 5th/6th grade youth group. Search is planned for November 27-29.

RCIA

RCIA is ready to start this Sunday, September 13th. We'll meet at our usual time: Sunday evenings from 7-9 in Daly Hall. I'll be posting a schedule of our Sunday evening sessions as well as one for the various Rites that occur throughout the year on the bulletin board outside of my office. I still am in need of a few people to come give topic presentations as well as some folks who would be willing to be sponsors, so if you or someone you know is interested let me know. Everyone on team is back from last year and we are adding Jeremy Schwager to our group as well. He was a sponsor last year and we are pleased to have him on team this year. I'm expecting the numbers to be a little up from last year, but we'll see. The first few weeks we always see the numbers bouncing up and down. This year we will be using a different method for scripture discussion. We will be utilizing a Quest publication that is geared toward small faith communities. In addition to a commentary and questions relating to the readings, this book also has suggestions for how to incorporate the lessons from scripture into our daily living. It is my hope that using this book will make what we hear at Mass more pertinent. This year we also have 5 high school youth who will be preparing for confirmation. I'll begin working with them and their sponsors starting later in the year. As many of you know, this will be my last year as RCIA coordinator. Dale is planning to retire the end of 2010 and we will be moving to Polson. I've enjoyed working with all of you, and am looking forward to a great "last" year.

Adult Study

A Financial Peace University session will be scheduled in January and run for 13 weeks.

Catholic Schools

Parish Fun

1st Mothers Of Preschoolers meeting will be Sept 15, 2009. We are still looking for volunteers for the MOPPETTS or childcare for the 1st meeting of the month. The parish Picnic will be Sept 20th 2009. Knights are purchasing and preparing and cleaning up the food, parish members with bring side or salad, Fun committee is organizing games, and there will be music. We discussed date for Halloween Party and it was decided to be October 24 2009.

Liturgy

Worship

We could use a few more Sacristans, especially at the 5pm and 11am weekend Masses. There is a change coming regarding taking communion to the homebound. The logistics are being worked out to how those taking to the homebound will receive communion in the pyx. More on this will come at a later date. Different ideas were shared. There are a few new Ministers of Holy Communion and Altar Servers that have been trained. Mary printed out the schedule for the year for the Liturgy Committee and gave each person a copy. Sara Cameron volunteered to head up the Fall Season for decorating. The first decorating day is October 3rd at 8 a.m. for fall.

Music

Sunday Choir began last night; no new members yet. I did mail postcards to former members to encourage them to rejoin the choir.

The Youth Choir begins on September 23, Wednesday after the religion classes and youth group. It will be a long night, but there wasn't a better time. The youth choir will sing at mass on October 4 at 11:00am, October 24 at 5:00pm in Halloween costumes, November 15 at 9:00am, December 6 at 11:00am, and Christmas Eve at 3:30pm. They will sing a few songs before mass and lead the carols during the Christmas play.

I am working with Kris to integrate music into the RCIA program, choosing music that coordinates with the presentations as well as songs with general initiation themes. We'll do some recordings and some "live" music.

The Evangelization workshop will be at St. Bernard's October 15-16, Thursday and Friday. I am on deck to help coordinate the liturgy/worship portion of that workshop.

I am out of the office for Dale Carnegie training course Tuesday September 15, 22, 29.

Parish Nursing

We will be participating in the national "Smoke Free Sabbath" in Sept. Several churches in the Billings area are participating.

Flu shots will be available in the parish after masses on Oct 18 -19th.

Parish nurses will be attending a retreat on September 26th.

Interfaith Hospitality

We hosted IHN twice during the summer. There is one family left in the system. We will next host IHN the week of November 8th.

St. Vincent DePaul

Pro-life

St. Bernard's will host the Bishop's Right to Life conference on March 19 & 20. Mike is the conference coordinator with assistance from Judy, Mary, Mark R. and Brian.

Haiti

The committee will be offering opportunities to adopt a Haitian student after masses this month.

Communications

Web site

Mary Strauss has taken the lead in redoing the Parish web page-check it out.

The office has a new phone system- staff is working out the bugs!

Parish Groups

Council of Catholic Women

Knights of Columbus #8345

Christmas trees have been ordered.

Finance - Fr. David

New Business and Council Member Input

Mike Mayott has been included in the list of Aspirants for the permanent Deaconate. The first meeting is Nov 6.

Closing Prayer

Fr David