

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
MAR. 10, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order.

Council members present: John Brozek, Cathy Chenu-Campbell, Bernie Evangelista, Cecilia Fisher-Dahms, Shaaron Gilson, Richard Hernandez, Dick Jaco, Christine Morse Galves, Bob Reid, Judy Robinson, Janet Vitt, Fr. Anthony

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Bob led the prayer and facilitated faith sharing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from last month were approved.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kay Skonieczny gave a brief report on the Dinner Dance – it was “a perfect 10”. Over 250 tickets were sold, and around \$13,000 (net) was raised for the Steps Ministry. There was strong interest in holding this event again next year, so a date has already been reserved with the Dante Club (Sat., Feb. 6).

Two of our ushers provided information to the Council on the increasing problems caused by aggressive panhandling on Sunday mornings. Everyone’s biggest concern is the safety of all parishioners. Options were discussed including calling the police, either to report the incidents to the “Aggressive Panhandling Task Force” number or to request an arrest of the panhandler, obtaining restraining orders that would force particular individuals to stay away, and ways to discourage parishioners from giving money to individuals panhandling on church property. A small group of council members (Richard, Christine, and Judy) will discuss the issues, confer with staff and with the ushers, and will draft recommendations.

Richard reviewed the guidelines for how the Council will communicate. John suggested using a ‘time-keeper’ during the meetings to ensure discussions stay on point and move along – we will consider this suggestion at the next meeting.

The Parish Council will be hosting dinner before the Lenten Retreat on Thurs., Mar. 19. Richard has arranged for the food; please contact him if you can help with setup/cleanup.

PASTOR’S REPORT

Fr. Anthony reported on the special Stations of the Cross that were held last week. Bishop Soto presided, and was very impressed with the event. Special thanks to the staff, especially Deborah and James, for creating this service.

A date has been chosen for the Ramadan feast (a Centennial event) – Sept. 5, 2009.

The Capital Campaign Committee report was presented within the Pastor’s Report. The Committee and the pastor agree that moving forward with this campaign does not make sense in the current economic climate. Instead, the general consensus is to document needs, to build parish awareness of the projects, and to encourage additional donations to the Building Fund. A full campaign would be undertaken when the economy stabilizes. First priority projects are those related to health and safety; Joe will continue to gather accurate cost estimates for these. Fr. Anthony will develop a ‘case statement’ outlining the need for these projects, and associated costs. This will be completed by late June, so information is presented to the parish by Oct. 1.

The friary wiring has now been traced. A number of copies have been made of the schematic drawings, so that these will be readily available in the future. A suggestion was made to provide labels (for ex., on service panels) to ensure future understanding of the system. Now that the existing system is clear, the next step is to identify needed changes and upgrades.

The Catholic Herald will be running an article on the Centennial book.

There is a provincial meeting next week to re-assign friars – Fr. Anthony is staying here.

REPORTS

Finance Council –John reported that plate revenue is down appx. 8% from the level that we budgeted for in FY 2008/09. The tentative suggestion from Finance Council is to assume this same level of revenue for next year. Staff has been asked to look at programs to see if they can be adjusted to stay within this budget. Council members identified what they see as priority items on which funding should be focused in the upcoming budget. John will distribute the full current budget in electronic form, and an abbreviated version in hard copy.

Communications – the Committee has made the decision to shift Mass Appeal from a printed newsletter to electronic form. Printing and mailing costs were appx. \$650/issue, which limited both size and frequency of Mass Appeal. An online version can be produced more frequently, with the only cost being about \$30/month for software to do the mass emailing.

Welcoming Committee – the next SFP 101 is scheduled for June 6/7.

Buildings & Grounds – this report will be added as a standing item. Joe has made several small repairs to the roof (leaks from the recent rain). He is also looking at the cost of replacement for the church HVAC system. The system is still working now, but is 37 years old – this is a proactive attempt to identify future expenses.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bob, Steve and Janet will work on the committee since they have experience with the process; Bernie, Cecilia and Judy will also work on the committee to learn what is required. Everyone needs to help recruit candidates to run for the open seats.

A handout was distributed showing how many seats are open for this May's election (5). Most of these seats are held by members who are 'termed out' and cannot run again (Cathy, Bob, Steve, Janet). Another handout was distributed showing the election timeline – elections are the weekend of May 30/31.

Several by-laws provisions may be revised – one would lower the voting age to 16 (the canonical age of responsibility). The by-laws will also be checked to see how long a person has to be registered in the parish before they can run for a Council seat.

CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting closed with prayer; Christine volunteered to lead prayer next month.

NEXT MEETING

Apr. 14, 2009, 7 pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

Apr. 4/5	Meet and greet before/after all Masses
Apr. 25	School fundraiser "Feria"
May 2/3	Meet and greet before/after all Masses
May 12	Parish Council meeting
May 17	Volunteer appreciation event
May 30/31	Parish Council elections