

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
APR. 11, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order.

Council members present: Eloise Anderson, Cathy Chenu-Campbell, Shaaron Gilson, Richard Hernandez, Linda Johnston-Panattoni, Christine Morse Galves, Rosalie Rashid, Bob Reid, Steve Tholcke, Janet Vitt, Fr. Anthony

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Rosalie led the prayer and facilitated faith sharing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from last month were approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fr. Anthony provided a written report prior to the Council meeting.

Fr. Anthony focused his report on the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2008). In discussing the general background, Fr. Anthony clarified that we pay an assessment to the Diocese of 18% on our collections - this assessment applies to money put into the plate during Mass and also to money put into general envelopes. It does not apply to funds designated for particular purposes, or to funds sent directly to the parish (not in collection envelopes).

In the preliminary budget, it looks as if we might run a deficit. Costs are increasing (substantial increases for benefits, for liability insurance, for property taxes, and for the new youth ministry position). Revenue from the interest on the Harrington fund will be down because of the temporary shift of principal to the Diocese to eliminate our 'debt' to the Diocesan capital campaign.

However, donations are often received that we cannot anticipate, and this often helps balance the budget. In addition, we could consider asking the parish for increased contributions (although that may not be wise when we will also be conducting a capital campaign). Alternatively, we could consider tapping a small amount of principal from the Harrington fund (although we have not used the principal in the past, there is no legal requirement to treat this fund as an endowment).

Georgie provided some background information about the budget for a half-time youth minister, and her views about the importance of moving forward with this position. After discussion, Council M/S/A going forward with this position for the new fiscal year.

Council also reached general consensus that we should move forward with budget development even if there is a small deficit projected. The Council would review the situation during the year; IF there does turn out to be a deficit, decisions would then be made about how to handle that situation.

Fr. Anthony also discussed the deanery meeting. Our deanery is: St. Francis, Cathedral, St. Elizabeth, Holy Cross and Divine Mercy. Fr. John Boll is Dean. Fr. Anthony is satisfied with the direction in which the group is moving.

FOLLOW UP ON OLD BUSINESS

By-laws Ad Hoc Committee – made a suggestion to change the timing for election of new officers back to the June meeting. Council M/S/A the shift of elections for new officers to the June meeting. In addition, the committee provided several options to accomplish the switch of the Council to a larger Council with members serving 3 year terms. After discussion, the Council M/S/A option B. This option extends the terms of 3 current members for one additional year (Bob Reid, Steve Tholcke, and Janet Vitt) in order to minimize transitions and partial terms. With this option, there will be five positions on the Council that will be elected in spring 2008. Current members who wish to run again should be sure to get their application materials sent in; we should all be looking for potential new members and encouraging them to apply.

Centennial Committee – the Committee is still looking for a publicity chair.

Communications Committee – The Mass Appeal issue is out; the Committee is now looking at how the process can be streamlined for future issues. The next issue will be focused on the Centennial Celebration.

Financial Assistance Ad Hoc Committee – the group is working on developing an information packet.

NEW BUSINESS

Coffee and donuts – all Sundays are covered again. Could groups consider making healthy foods available (e.g., fruit)? Also, could we consider ‘earth friendly’ options for utensils, cups, etc.? Parish Council needs to have at least one person in the hall on Meet & Greet Sundays.

Last year we donated funds for a basket to be auctioned off at the Feria fundraiser. M/S/A to do this again this year. Richard might be able to donate an item from the Hyatt; for other donations, please get them to Eloise ASAP.

There was a suggestion about a way to gather feedback from the parish as a whole. There could be 3x5 cards placed in the pews, with a request that people answer a particular question, etc. These cards could then be picked up in a 2nd collection and tallied to gather information.

Bishop Weigand will be retiring Nov. 30, 2008.

CLOSING PRAYER

Rosalie led the closing prayer.

NEXT MEETING

May 13, 2008, 7 pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 26	Feria (school fundraising evening)
May 4	Volunteer appreciation dinner
May 31/June 1	Parish Council elections (after each Mass)
June 10	Parish Council meeting
May 18 & 19	SFP 101 (Sunday at 11 am; Monday at 7 pm)
Aug. 3 & 4	SFP 101 (Sunday at 11 am; Monday at 7 pm)
Oct. 4	08 Centennial celebration begins