

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES  
OCT. 14, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order.

Council members present: Eloise Anderson, John Brozek, Cathy Chenu-Campbell, Cecilia Fisher-Dahms, Christine Morse Galves, Richard Hernandez, Bob Reid, Judy Robinson, Steve Tholcke, Janet Vitt, Fr. Anthony

**GOSPEL REFLECTION**

Steve led the prayer and facilitated faith sharing.

**WELCOME**

Richard thanked all who were involved in the Centennial celebration events last weekend; Council members also noted the work of former Council member David Sundquist in the early planning for our Centennial.

Richard announced that Linda Johnston-Panatonni has resigned her Parish Council seat (for lack of time to devote to the Council). Linda will stay involved in the building projects however.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from last month were approved.

**PASTOR'S REPORT**

Fr. Anthony apologized that he could not get the Pastor's Report emailed to the Council prior to the meeting as he usually does.

Electrical work in the Church building is proceeding. The project has grown larger (by about \$18,000) because the contractor found wiring running through walls which is not properly encased in conduit. Because this was a serious fire hazard, Fr. Anthony authorized the additional work to ensure the safety of the wiring. All the work is being done by a professional electrician, and all will be documented on schematic drawings. As part of the project, Fr. Anthony is trying to secure the entire system so it cannot be modified in the future by non-professionals. In general, Council reiterated its commitment to having projects go out to competitive bid before work is undertaken.

Diocesan convocation for young adults – The Diocese held a meeting (they define young adults as anyone between 18 & 39); our parish attendees were Fr. Anthony and Georgie along with several parishioners. It was apparent to Fr. Anthony that the group was hungry for both prayer and theology. For our parish, this reinforces the need for whole parish catechesis. The Deanery will hold a follow-up meeting on Nov. 7 at Newman Center.

Centennial books sales – about 145 copies have been ordered and prepaid; there are additional orders that have not yet been paid for.

Pastoral priorities - the top ranked items of concern from our summer retreat/planning day are: 1) Nurturing the faith life of the parish (including the faith life of young people), 2) How to address the fact that staff are tired, 3) How to create safe space to discuss controversial topics. On topic 1, the parish is still pursuing the plan

to hire a part-time or shared youth minister. On topic 2, Fr. Anthony and the staff are addressing this issue among themselves. On topic 3, the Council discussed what exactly this meant. For example, it might be providing opportunities for parishioners to learn more about a topic in order to form their own conscience. It might also include creating ground rules for discussions on controversial topics such as politics. It might include publicizing the new mediation committee and their charge/process. It might include outreach to parishioners who have left the parish – Fr. Anthony started this with a letter to some of our former parishioners inviting them to attend the Centennial celebration weekend. Council M/S/A a proposal to spend one hour during the November meeting discussing and brainstorming how to move forward on this priority.

Capital campaign – still meeting to try to determine timing, phases, etc. (especially in light of current economic conditions). Information should be available for the Nov. Council meeting.

## **REPORTS**

Communications Committee – looking at options to make available some of the Centennial events (CD with some of the speakers during Mass, clips of streaming video to place of the web site, etc.) The Committee will also look at how to publicize the use of building funds for improvement projects that are underway.

School Board liaison – scrip sales have dramatically increased now that parishioners are also buying scrip. The school has ideas about possibly redesigning a portion of the playground landscaping; a number of issues will need to be considered. School enrollment is over 300 students.

Welcoming Committee – did a tremendous amount of work on the Centennial weekend receptions, and they are starting to work on the next SFP 101.

Finance Council – John attended his first meeting. A reminder that the Centennial books need to be sold in order to recover the money that has been advanced for their production.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Steve led the closing prayer; Cecilia volunteered to lead prayer next month.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Nov. 11, 2008, 7 pm

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Dec. 6/7      Meet and greet after all Masses