

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order.

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Cecilia led the prayer and facilitated faith sharing.

WELCOME

Richard welcomed all, and began the meeting by introducing Bernie Evangelista. The Council M/S/A Bernie's appointment, and thanked her for being willing to serve on the Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from last month were approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fr. Anthony sent his report before the meeting (distributed/attached).

The Christmas Mass schedule has been finalized. Publicity will need to be widespread because of the time changes (in the Christmas letter that is mailed, in the bulletin, on the website, and in the announcements)

Electrical work in the Church building is proceeding. Some donations to the Building Fund have been specifically directed to helping pay for this project.

Capital campaign – A presentation will be ready for the Dec. Council meeting.

The Finance Council is keeping a close watch on cash flow, especially as that relates to repayment for the up-front costs of publishing the Centennial book.

Conversations are continuing with the pastors of Sacred Heart, St. Mary's and Newman Center about the possibility of hiring and sharing a youth minister.

REPORTS

Communications Committee – the next issue of Mass Appeal is scheduled for February.

School Board liaison – there will be a presentation at the Dec. Council meeting on the school's ideas about possibly redesigning a portion of the playground landscaping.

Welcoming Committee – they have completed the new brochure (printed in color!). The next SFP 101 is scheduled for Feb. 8, after the noon Mass.

Centennial Committee – the quilt raffle went well, and so have the flower sales (thanks to Marianne Grisez for coordinating this effort). Docents are leading tours of the church on the 4th Sundays of each month from 1:30 to 3:30.

DISCUSSION/BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Council devoted a substantial portion of the meeting to a discussion one of the items from the pastoral priorities list created after the summer retreat day – “creating a space to discuss controversial topics”

1) At the core, this issues touches on several important values within the parish community – “We want to foster open communication” and “We value diversity of thought”. We need to just say these things and to do these things. The goal in our conversations is to speak our personal truth, not to persuade others.

2) We need to reinforce the need for civility in all conversations. Fr. Anthony addressed this topic at recent Masses, as a reminder to us all. It might also be useful to encourage all groups to set some basic ground rules for respectful behavior/conversations, and ask that these be reviewed once a year.

3) We might want to hold faith formation activities on how to do respectful dialogue (both within the parish community and with others in our lives. The topic of “handling conflict as Jesus did” was also suggested for a faith formation activity.

4) We might consider additional faith formation forums on morality and on Catholic social teachings, as opportunities to further form our own consciences on controversial issues.

5) We might want to gather feedback from the parish (do a survey, etc.) on the question: “What can we do to foster open dialogue within the parish community?”

6) We need to publicize and explain the purpose of the Mediation Committee and the process that is available to handle conflicts (use Mass Appeal, the bulletin, the website, etc.)

7) We might want to consider developing a way to smooth the process of a person leaving the parish, and options for inviting people back (Fr. Anthony recently mailed some letters to invite former parishioners to come back for the Centennial kick-off liturgy, for ex.)

8) In faith formation activities, workshops, retreats, and other parish activities, remember to deal with the experiential. As people share their own unique journey, diverse viewpoints are often more easily ‘heard’.

9) We should continue to use the Centennial Prayer, and encourage others throughout the parish to also pray this prayer together. The Prayer clearly articulates the kind of parish we want to be, and how we want to respect one another in all that we do.

CLOSING PRAYER

Cecilia led the closing prayer.

NEXT MEETING

Dec. 9, 2008, 7 pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 6/7	Meet and greet after all Masses
Jan. 3/4	Meet and greet after all Masses