

PPC Meeting Notes – 10th September 2007

Attendees: Jose Barios, Mary Billings, Lisa Braga, Dawn Caissie, Manny Chaves, Pat Conte, Pat Delaney, Greg Gallagher, Tony Ippolito, Paula Lowell, Gerry McDonald, Shelia Mahoney, Rosalyn McHugh, Jennifer McHugh, Luzia Oliveria, George Perkins, Mary Piecewicz, Frank Ramsbottom, Kristine Togneri, Fr. Joel, Fr. Ron

Welcome to Our New Pastor Fr. Ron: Fr. Ron expressed his excitement at being St. Michaels and gave a brief background on his previous assignments. Members of the PPC introduced themselves.

Update on the Finance/PPC Letter: It was decided that Fr. Ron will acknowledge and thank Parishioners for their positive response to the May Letter requesting increased weekly donations, in his upcoming weekly column in the Bulletin. George Perkins suggested that perhaps the Finance Committee could do an in-depth analysis on the weekly increase. It was mentioned by several PPC members that visibility to the Parish financial statements, including the distribution of the savings funds, would be helpful. Fr. Ron assured the PPC that he will make detailed financials available on a yearly basis.

Activities Committee - Meeting scheduled for Friday 14th September at 5pm Third Floor Conference Room to meet with Fr. Joel to develop a calendar of Parish events. Rosalyn will work Fr. Joel on developing a Bible Study Program for both young and young at heart. Mary/Rosalyn will contact the Elks to schedule next year's Parish Picnic on 17th August 2008 and hopefully it will be free of charge!

Parish Picnic Photo Collage – Many thanks to Pat Conte for preparing the 3 panels of Picnic Photos in time for Fr Tom's Welcome Home Event. The Photos will be on display in the Chapel. Tracey Wesinger plans on framing the collage for permanent exhibition on the Third Floor of the Parish Center.

Update on Youth Ministry. Greg gave an update on the lack of participation of teens in the Parish Youth Ministry. He will be contacting Grace Baptist Youth Program for some ideas how to get more teens involved. Greg expressed the need for a Teen Center in addition to service activities and youth focused events to draw teens in to Parish life. There has been a request for a youth program for pre-teens – but it carries a lot of responsibility and participation by parents is critical. Greg is optimistic that if the Parish keeps supporting the Youth Ministry it will take off.

Stewardship Update: Shelia gave the PPC an update on where we have been and where we hope to go with Stewardship. Fr Ron will meet with Shelia separately but he endorsed the concept of making St Michaels' a Stewardship Parish. Discussions centered on update of the Ministry Handbook that Dawn Caissie is preparing. Dawn will work with Pat Delaney and others on a final review before sending the booklet for printing. Shelia did mention that there was quite an interest in Stewardship/Ministries as expressed by many who attended the Stewardship Info table at the Picnic.

Religious Ed Update: Corrected Schedules are completed and Gerry is hoping to get mailings out as soon as possible. Gerry gave a brief update on the new regulations for Religious Ed Safety programs as mandated by the Archdiocese. Gerry will work with Fr Ron on putting together a long term plan to address the regulations. Some of the requirements apply to Catholic Schools and Pat provided some insight on how the schools have addressed these requirements. Other CCD issues – there is a decrease in the number of CCD teachers and Gerry will be working on “recruiting” more instructors for the upcoming year. The question of fees for CCD was addressed and Fr Ron will work with Gerry and the Finance Committee to get a communication out to the Parish on CCD funding/costs. Suggestions was made to lighten the financial burden for CCD parents by offering a payment plan, Adopt a RE student program, Scholarships, etc.

PPC Members: There is a need new for a student representative from Hudson Catholic. Pat Delaney will work with Carolyn Flynn to get a student to participate in the PPC. The student needs to have the time and sense of commitment for this role. Mary will contact PPC members who have not attended PPC in the past six months to see if they are still interested in participating. If there are vacancies, Fr. Ron can provisional appoint new members until the next PPC election which is scheduled for the Fall of 2008. (Last election was Fall of 2005.)

Questions/Comments From Parishioners’ Addressed:

Fr Ron will take care of the need for floral arrangements in the Chapel with Angie. This hopefully will address parishioners’ concerns about the sickly plants on the Altar. In addition he will look into getting new flower stands for funeral flowers in the Upper Church.

Issue of funding/expenses for CCD will be addressed in Fr. Ron’s upcoming financial accounting to the Parish.

The replacement of the second Holy Water font in the Upper Church has been added to the list of “things to be addressed” by Fr. Ron.

The process for becoming a Eucharistic Minister is the same. Fr. Ron will endorse those parishioners who wish to become ministers and they will be trained by Rachel Duffy. The whole Eucharistic Program including Homebound is being reviewed by Fr Joel and Fr. Ron.

Possibility of electronic donation program for St Michaels needs to be addressed by the Finance Committee. Lisa will give Fr Ron the name of the contact at St. Mary’s Credit Union as a possible solution.

Next Meeting Monday 8th October at 7 PM, Third Floor Conference Room of the Parish Center.