

## Parish Council Minutes December 10, 2014

Attending: Fr. John, Marguerite Andersen, Vincenza Chapin, Rich Sieminski, Luzmarina Lalli, Bridget DeCoursey, Robert Altomare, Mary Kay Greiner, Kevin Richards

Unable to Attend: Marypat Hughes, Isabel Oramas, Fr. Praxid

1. Opening Prayer: This was led by Fr. John
2. Meeting Minutes: The previous month were approved by all in attendance.
3. Parish Club: There is a Parish Club Pot Luck Luncheon planned for 12/18/14 @ 12:30 in gym at St. Theresa's School.
4. Flower Power Fundraiser: An additional \$ 150.00 was raised. The total amount of money raised thus far is \$835.00.
5. Next Fundraiser: The next planned fundraiser will be the creation of greeting cards. The cards will be pictures of the stained glass windows in St. Theresa Church as well as a brief biography of the saint depicted in the picture.
6. Giving Tree: The last day for the donations of gifts is no later than the 12:45 mass on 12/14/14 (approx. 1:30 p.m.). After this mass, the gifts will be sorted and distributed by volunteers from the parish and CCD. Volunteers are already in place to bring the donated gifts from Our Lady of the Wayside. A total of 1,000 tags were placed on the Christmas trees.
7. Turkey Drive: The initial amount of money collected was \$ 1,402.07. This was used to buy turkeys and other non-perishable items. A total of 70 food baskets were created. An additional collection of \$ 419.68 was given directly to St. Ann's for further shopping. There was an array of volunteers that participated in this event and it proved to be an integral part of this year's success.
8. Welcoming of New Parishioners: A member of the rectory staff will identify those who have joined the parish in the first few months of the upcoming year. Parish Council members will call and welcome them to our community. During the Spring of 2015, they will be invited to a social gathering.
9. Advent and Christmas: An additional item to be decorated in St. Theresa's main church is the choir loft.

New Items:

1. Directory of Volunteers: This will include a description of the different Parish ministries and organizations and the people who are currently involved in them. Further research needs to be done to see if the parishioners are interested to have this available to them.

2. Parish Website: A big "Thank You" goes out to Bob Altomare for his fantastic work on our new Parish website.

4. Religious Education News:

Classes are offered on Sundays (grades 1-4), Mondays (grades 5-8), Wednesdays (CGS) and Thursdays (grades 2 and 4).

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders went on a student paid field trip to hear a youth speaker at Holy Rosary Church.

A new middle school youth group for 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders has been started. It meets on the third Friday of the month at St. Theresa's School. At the first meeting, 13 youths participated.

The 2016 World Youth Day will take place in Poland. This is an event for high school students.

At the present time, 23 new people are being trained as altar servers. Thus far, three training sessions have been provided and another one will take place after the New Year.

Several ideas have been created for our Family Catechesis. This includes a family rosary night (1 hour), "Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage and a guest speaker/artist. This will be a way to unite all the types of people in the parish (i.e. religious education families, existing parish families and the families in our cluster parishes).

The Religious Education Director has been contacted by a person who is interested in our RCIA program.

The Culture Project, a new pro-life, pro-chastity speaker/missionary group has bookings available in the upcoming months for teens in our religious education program and/or youth group. This is a possible event that can include parishes in our cluster.

5. The Good Counsel School building is closing. They will be looking for a new place in the center of the county to house their grammar school.

6. The flowerpots on the parking lot side of St. Theresa's Church are in need of care. It was suggested that members in the Confirmation classes remove weeds/bloomed flowers and place a spray of Christmas tree branches on the tops of the planters. A waterproof ribbon or Christmas tree bulb can add some festive decoration during the holiday season.

7. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer led by Fr. John.