

Parish Council Minutes – November 12, 2014

Attending: Fr. John, Luzmarina Lalli, Marguerite Andersen, Vincenza Chapin, Mary Pat Hughes, Isabel Oramas, Bridget DeCoursey, Robert Altomare

Unable to Attend: Mary Kay Greiner, Rich Sieminski

1. The meeting came to order and Father John led an opening prayer.
2. The Minutes of the previous month were approved by all in attendance.
3. Fr. John made a suggestion that the meeting minutes should be put in a binder for access at the back of the church. This is in addition to being posted at the Parish Website.
4. Making All Things New was discussed very briefly. St. Theresa and Our Lady of the Wayside are not affected by the consolidations and closings.
5. Marguerite Andersen reported that the Parish club trip to Kykuit was very successful. Parishioner Tom Berta led the tour. Afterward a group had lunch at Goldfish in Ossining.
6. The Flower Power Fund Raiser was discussed very briefly. The Parish Council supports running the program again for the Spring planting season. However it was agreed that a supplemental method of communicating the program would be used- most likely a table outside church after Mass.
7. Vincenza Chapin reported on the organization efforts for the Giving Tree. There was a good response from parishioners regarding the request for volunteers. An additional charity is being added this year –Cardinal McCloskey Services. Cardinal McCloskey will come to St. Theresa to pick up the gifts. A flyer for the church bulletin is in preparation. Jose will set up tables in the church basement where the gifts will be stored and sorted.
8. Isabel Oramas reported on the progress of the Thanksgiving Turkey Drive benefitting the needy in our sister parish, St. Ann, Ossining. Thus far approximately \$125 was received with a much larger donation expected at the coming weekend Masses. Isabel reported that she had ordered 60 Turkeys from BJs and was working with Kevin Richards to accept the donations from the Religious Education children.
9. The Adopt a Family program at St. Ann was discussed. While a good number of parishioners participate in the program, it was decided to hold off putting an announcement in the bulletin due to the concern that another program might dilute the efforts going toward the Giving Tree.
10. Spiritual Activities for Advent were discussed. The Parish will use the candles of the advent wreath along with progressive movement in preparing the church throughout the season to heighten the expectation of Christmas. In addition, Advent booklets will be available. There was some discussion of an Advent Pageant. However it became

clear that it was already too late to develop such a program. Should a parishioner wish to organize it, it could be done next year.

11. Mention of a desire for a St. Theresa reunion was made. Fr. John pointed out that an interested parishioner would need to organize, obtain permission and take charge of the event.
12. Marguerite Anderson discussed welcoming new parishioners. She will reach out. There was a general discussion of the practice of welcoming new parishioners that the parish used in the past. Typically a parish family hosted a reception at their home where a mix of newcomers and established parishioners gathered. This could be an opportunity for parish members to grow or enhance a new ministry.
13. The meeting ended with a prayer led by Fr. John.