

St. Therese Church
Parish Council Minutes
September 1, 2015

Magdalene Howell called the meeting to order

Present: Tom Trudeau, Magdalene Howell, Rita Guest, Cheryl Davis. Fr. Jim arrived after the meeting started due to a prior commitment.

Rita said the opening prayer.

The minutes from the May 5, 2015 meeting were presented and approved.

Old Business:

-Bingo: Fr. Jim indicated that bingo is doing very well. Their next donation will be \$4,000. They are looking for more volunteers for concessions and to work the game. They are desperate for more volunteers.

-Election of Officers: tabled because too few members were present.

-Divine Mercy Sunday Visiting Singer: Ana Raterman has approached the parish about having a visiting singer for the Divine Mercy service on Divine Mercy Sunday. No one seemed to know who the singer is or whether we will need to pay her or just take up a free will offering for her. Tom indicated that last April (2015) the Council said that she could come but only if there was no cost to the parish. Magdalene said she would follow up with Ana about the details.

-Fr. Jim noted that 3 new Council chairpersons are needed: Welcoming, RCIA, and Neighborhoods.

New Business:

-Youth Council Formation: Melissa has said that there is a Youth Council Formation group formed but no other information was available on it.

-Senior Dinner: Fr. Jim had dinner with Charlie and Mary Alice Woerner recently, and they gave him the history of this dinner. Originally it was for single seniors and then all seniors. At first it was a Christmas party and then a spring party with ham being served. It seems to have lost its focus now and no one is taking it on. Fr. Jim recommended that we discontinue holding it until it regains its focus.

-Ideas for Social Functions: No new ideas were put forward. It was mentioned that there will be no parish picnic this fall because we had the picnic in the spring. The Theresians' Spaghetti dinner will be done as well as the Knights' Fish Fry and Ice Cream Social.

-Ministry Fair: Participants complained that it was a lot of work for very little response. Some thought the location (in the social hall) hurt turnout and it does better when in the Commons and on front sidewalk.

-Living Our Mission Receptions: There will be two catered events done. On September 19 there will be a dinner for those who donated at a certain level or higher. A week later, on September 26, there will be a very nice catered wine and cheese party for all parishioners to acknowledge all who prayed for, contributed to, or helped the campaign in any way. When asked why there was a two tier level of receptions Fr. Jim explained that there were too many people to have at just one reception.

-New Staff: Fr. Jim informed us that Kerry Fallon has been hired as the parish Coordinator of Evangelization. The position is paid for with money from the Living Our Mission Campaign. She will work 15 hours a week, and Welcoming, RCIA, and Neighborhood Communities will be her main focus one at a time in that order. RCIA will gather a core group to run that program. Kerry's function will be to gather a team for each of the targeted groups and then have the teams run the programs. Kerry teaches religion at CNU and was formerly a pastoral assistant at St. Joan of Arc.

Additional New Business:

-Magdalene asked if the children in the Children's Liturgy of the Word can return to Mass in time to watch Baptisms when there is one during that Mass. Fr. Jim approved this plan.

-The 75th anniversary committee had worked on plans for the purchase of a large statue of St. Therese, but the efforts stalled. Recently a parishioner who is very interested in getting the statue donated \$8,000 for the purchase of a statue. This will allow the planning to move forward. Fr. Jim wants the statue to be in the middle of the Commons. Rita will meet with David Bristow to discuss the design of the statue. Either Magdalene or Fr. Jim will go with her to discuss the statue.

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Cheryl Davis