

**Our Lady on the River Parish Council Minutes  
Monday, April 12, 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sr. Mary Ann Ankoviak, CSJ	David Schwehofer (Pres.)	Stephanie Spencer
	Mary Patrick (V-Pres.)	Bev Simon
	Catherine Nutter (Sec.)	Charles Ongena

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Fr. Jim Lopez	Barbara Persyn
Fr. Matt Ellis	

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Linda Abraam	Mark Bowden	Bobbi Ivan
Sr. Geraldine Arnold	Mary Endres	

**OPENING** Sr. Mary Ann opened the meeting in prayer at 6:33.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES** Stephanie Spencer motioned to approve the March minutes; Mary Patrick seconded; all assented.

**VICARIATE PARISH COUNCIL** Bobbi Ivan reported on the Blue Water Vicariate March 10<sup>th</sup> VPC meeting:

**1. Youth Retreat:** Thanks to funding from the Blue Water Vicariate, approximately 100 youth were able to attend the recent .Net retreat. A good number of the teens that attended are home-schooled, which shows that Youth Ministers have been doing a good job of advertising these events in their parishes.

**2. "Theology on Tap":** Eric Coules, the Campus/Young Adult minister, is planning "Theology on Tap" for our vicariate, hopefully to be held in a central location, like the Marysville area.

**3. Youth Ministry Website:** After listening to Eric Coules discuss plans for an updated Campus/Young Adult website (and the cost involved) Amy O'Gara, developer and editor of *The Drift*, offered to design and maintain the website at cost. As all of the AOD Campus/Young Adult websites need to have the same 'look and feel,' Amy offered to develop and support them as well. Amy's offer would result in substantial savings to the AOD, so Eric will relay her offer to the AOD.

**4. Vicariate Financial Obligations:** Fr. Joe Horn reported that at the last Presbyteral Council meeting, most of the discussion was about parish and parish school finances and financial accountability. In particular, the parish assessment will be going from 6% to 7%, probably beginning July 1, 2010. Also, the AOD CSA goal has been frozen, but parish goals might not be and could be raised.

**5. Catholic Businesses Website:** Detailed information was handed out to all members regarding the *Catholic Business Pages*, a website designed for advertising Catholic businesses. This company offers a fund-raising option for parishes or schools who get businesses to sign up.

**6. New AOD Liaison for Vicariate:** Dr. Margie Crooks from the AOD Office of Evangelization, Catechesis and Schools, and Sally McCuen from the AOD office of Ministerial Certification,

were there to introduce themselves and some of their responsibilities with the AOD. Sally also will serve as the temporary AOD liaison to our vicariate until the restructuring of the AOD has been finalized.

*Once approved, the complete minutes are available on the Vicariate website, <http://www.bluewatervicariate.org/>*

## **AUDIENCE ADDRESS**

### **1. Linda Abraam: Thanksgiving Dinner Proposal:**

Linda proposed that OLR be the main organizer of a community Thanksgiving dinner aimed to serve financially disadvantaged families. The event would take place *on* Thanksgiving in the St. Catherine Activity Center. Cost would be covered primarily through donations: business owners and private donations. Volunteers would do the work. OLR (Christian Service Commission) could team up with other churches to host event.

Linda reported that the Algonac K of C served 150 dinners last year on Thanksgiving Day. Although some of the K of C members felt that number of participants was a little too low, Linda thinks that number of dinners sounds just right.

Linda asked for permission to organize this event for next year and asked if the parish would be able to financially subsidize the event if a shortfall of funds occurred.

Members of the council agreed that the dinner was a great idea for the community. No answer was given to Linda at this time. Sr. Mary Ann said that she would pass the idea on to Fr. Jim.

**PASTOR'S REPORT** No report due to Fr. Jim's absence.

*Sr. Mary Ann asked David if he had heard of any budget meetings that the PC president was supposed to attend. David had not. Bobbi said that she thought that the budget meetings happening at this time were occurring only at the clergy-level.*

## **COMMISSION REPORTS**

**1. Christian Service** Linda Abraam commented that the Christian Service committee would love more participation from parish members other than those who attend the Algonac site.

**a. Senior Bingo:** April 28.

**b. Direction of Christian Service:** The members of Christian Service are brainstorming new ways to serve the community. New membership would encourage fresh ideas. The Thanksgiving dinner idea is a result of this desire. Another idea that they have discussed is offering to do chores for senior citizens. (Mary Endres commented that Cherry Beach offers a service similar to this.)

**c. Christian Service Budget?:** Linda asked if there were funds for the Christian Service commission. Bobbi said that the 07-08 budget was \$1300 and that the 08-09 budget was \$800, according to previous parish budget sheets. Linda asked how the commission could get access to the funds. She said that currently, the money spent is donated by the commission members (for things like prizes for the Senior Bingo).

## 2. **Worship:** Sr. Mary Ann reported:

**a. Upcoming Sacraments:** An opportunity for Confirmation for Adults is being offered; the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Holy Cross and in religious education will be celebrating their Confirmation April 21 with Fr. Tim Hogan; and the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at Holy Cross and in religious education will be celebrating their First Holy Communion on April 24.

**b. May Crowning Question:** Catherine Nutter spoke on behalf of an Algonac site parish member who wants the May Crowning ceremony reinstated. Sr. Mary Ann responded that the May Crowning has always been occurring; its execution has been done differently than in the past, but it's still important and is still happening.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Increasing Safety of Holy Cross Ambo:**

1) David Schwehofer said that his cousin Chris Rhein (who has access to the proper tools and wood) looked at the pulpit. He recommends completely **replacing the steps** to make them wider and less steep. He could make new steps and rails that match the current furniture and would charge a very reasonable price.

2) Bobbi Ivan asked:

- a) Isn't this the Stewardship Commission's jurisdiction?
- b) Shouldn't several bids be taken?
- c) Is this a historical issue?

**b. Volunteer Dinner:** The Volunteer Dinner has been set for May 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM at the St. Catherine Activity Center.

**c. St. Mark Floors and Cleaning:** Stephanie Spencer asked if bids have been taken about refinishing the floors. She further asked if Mike Rector is supposed to be doing something to make this happen. (He doesn't know about it if he is.) The parish members at St. Mark would love for the floors and cleaning to be done before the summer people arrive.

## **NEW BUSINESS/MEMBER REPORTS**

**a. Rev. Mr. Richard J. Damaske:** Mary Endres reported that Dcn. Damaske from St. Mary's Queen of Creation in New Baltimore passed away on April 5, 2010. She commented that Dcn. Damaske spent much of his time working in the prison ministry.

**b. Health Awareness Day:** Mary Endres announced that St. Mary's in New Baltimore would be hosting its Health Awareness Day on April 17.

**CONCLUDING PRAYER** At 7:28 Mary Endres read from *Ephesians*:

*May He give you the power through His hidden Spirit for you to grow strong!*

Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Nutter  
Parish Council Secretary

**NEXT MEETING: Monday  
May 10, 2010  
St. Mark Activity Center, 6:30 PM**