

**Our Lady on the River Parish Council Minutes
Monday, March 8, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fr. Jim Lopez	David Schwehofer (Pres.)	Stephanie Spencer
Fr. Matt Ellis	Mary Patrick (V-Pres.)	Bev Simon
Sr. Mary Ann Ankoviak, CSJ	Catherine Nutter (Sec.)	

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Charles Ongena	Barbara Persyn
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OTHERS PRESENT:

Judy Beauvais	Bob Goldenbogen	Pam LaBelle
Mary Endres	Bobbi Ivan	

OPENING Fr. Jim opened the meeting in prayer at 6:48.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES Mary Patrick motioned to approve the February minutes; David Schwehofer seconded; all assented.

VICARIATE PARISH COUNCIL Bobbi Ivan reported on the Blue Water Vicariate February 10th VPC meeting:

1. The funding request for Young Adult/Campus Ministry was presented and approved. The Blue Water Vicariate's share will be \$4,415.94, and the first payment will be applied toward the purchase of a laptop computer for the Young Adult/Campus Minister's use.

Mary Patrick asked if an agreement has been signed between Eric Coules (the Young Adult Minister) and the region (of the four vicariates) indicating that if he ever leaves his position, the laptop would be returned in the "same condition" and that it would not be considered Eric's personal property. Neither Bobbi nor Catherine believed that any agreement has been signed yet, but said that such an arrangement had been verbally stated by both Eric Coules and Fr. Joe Horn.

2. The Vicariate budget continues to be reviewed. The committee is working to reduce the budget from its current level of \$18,000/year to around \$12,000 or \$13,000/year.

3. Starting in March, **The Drift will be a monthly publication** with four pages, including one page of advertising. Parishes should now submit information every month.

4. A proposal by the Vicar to schedule a **vicariate-wide communal penance service** during Lent was not approved by the Vicariate clergy for this Lenten season. It may still be considered later this year for Advent.

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

AUDIENCE ADDRESS No audience members raised any concerns.

PASTOR'S REPORT

1. Religious Education Reconciliation: All of the religious education students have celebrated Reconciliation for Lent, including the second graders who have celebrated it for the first time.

2. Vicaritate-wide Penance: We are moving toward offering a more regional communal penance service, as suggested by Fr. Joe Horn (the Vicar). Fr. Jim commented that offering Reconciliation this way would have both benefits and drawbacks.

3. Holy Cross Painting: The painting project is complete.

4. Parking Lots: All three sites will be surveyed for their needs, including St. Mark's which needs new paint.

5. SCRIP Program: The SCRIP coordinator position will become a paid position: \$7.50/hour at under 20 hours a week. The responsibility that comes with the position merits the pay; the coordinator needs to be a paid position in order to be held accountable.

Bobbi Ivan asked if SCRIP would be sold at the Masses. Bob Goldenbogen said that in the past there were not too many sales made that way, but that he would mention it to the coordinator. Bobbi and Mary Patrick suggested having the sales coincide with the after-Mass hospitality at the Holy Cross activity center. Bobbi wondered if buying SCRIP online were a possibility. Bob said that he thought it would be a possibility in the future.

COMMISSION REPORTS

1. Stewardship Commission

Bob Goldenbogen spoke on behalf of the Stewardship Commission and the Transitional Team.

He commented that Fr. Jim had already spoken in the past about the Stewardship Commission's projects and the Transitional Team's suggestions for adjustments in staffing (music ministry, maintenance, general staff).

a. SCRIP Program: Last year over \$980,000* was funneled through the SCRIP program. Around \$13,000 was brought into the school and \$30,000 in contributions to the parents who pay for SCRIP. *Approximately 5% actually comes back to the parish.

Because of the importance of the program, the coordinator position is becoming a paid position, but the stewardship commission cannot justify the parish paying for this employee when we are in debt.

Instead, the paid position will be funded through the SCRIP program itself. Although the program will show a loss on paper, this will not affect the overall success of the program. Having the employee paid by the program itself will allow the program to be self-sufficient, and the hiring of the employee will not affect the parish budget at all.

The program has the potential to grow even more by having outside organizations utilize our SCRIP program for their own fundraising events, but some tax issues have to be addressed before that can happen.

The program will be re-assessed in six months.

b. St. Mark: Stephanie Spencer asked whether the quotes were in for the sanding of the floor and cleaning of St. Mark chapel.

Fr. Jim said the men who needed to see the site to make their bids have not been able to get to the island due to the ice on the river.

Bob Goldenbogen asked who on the Stewardship Commission has been to the island to see the status of the parking lot. Fr. Jim said Mike Rector, who lives on the island, is on the commission. Stephanie said that the lot does not have potholes, but needs new top coat and new lines painted.

c. Open Houses: Bob Goldenbogen said that the recent Open Houses at Holy Cross and Cardinal Mooney were fantastic with good turn-out. Stephanie mentioned she noticed a more advertising this year.

2. Christian Service Sr. Mary Ann reported:

a. Christian Service hosted a Blood Drive yesterday.

b. The committee meets regularly to continue making clothing for the people of Haiti.

c. No meetings will take place in Lent.

Bobbi asked if the make-up of the committee was still predominately Algonac members. Sr. Mary Ann said that was, unfortunately, still the case. She commented that the various groups of the other sites independently do projects.

3. Worship Commission Mary Patrick reported:

a. Lector Training: Last Monday all the lectors were given a refresher training.

b. Palm Sunday/Holy Week: The schedule has been posted in the bulletin.

c. Blessed Oils: Sr. Mary Ann and Mary will be going to the Cathedral on Holy Thursday to receive our oils.

d. Wedding Anniversary Mass: 11 couples, along with their family members (50 people total), will be celebrating their wedding anniversaries at the 12:30 Mass at St. Catherine this Sunday.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Parish Website: Fr. Jim spoke with Chris Woelkers last week. A letter will be sent to the website server authorizing Chris to make changes to the parish website.

2. Holy Cross Ambo Railing: When asked for an update about the railing, Fr. Jim said it has not been addressed yet. David Schwehofer said he knows someone who has the materials (tools and wood) to do the job.

3. Parish Council Minutes: Catherine Nutter reported that copies of the PC minutes have been placed in the vestibules of all three sites.

NEW BUSINESS/MEMBER REPORTS

1. Bob Goldenbogen announced the **elementary school's auction** would be taking place this weekend at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

2. Parish Envelopes: Stephanie Spencer suggested it would save the parish money if church envelopes were distributed a full year at a time instead of being mailed every three months—at least to the parishioners on the island.

3. Volunteer Dinner: Due to the financial situation of the parish, it was discussed whether or not the volunteer dinner should be held this year. Despite its cost, it was decided that the event's benefits outweigh its cost—it builds community. Mary Patrick made a motion to continue the dinner this year; Bev Simon seconded. All assented. No date was set, although it will most likely be one of the Saturdays in May.

4. Diaconate Ordination: God willing, David Bechill will be ordained a deacon May 15th at Sacred Heart Major Seminary at 10:00 a.m.

5. Bryan Shackett has been chosen to study in Rome for the next two years. Most likely, some sort of congratulatory send-off will occur in the parish, possibly through the Knights of Columbus.

6. Choir Feedback: Mary Endres complimented the choir's beautiful music at Holy Cross.

7. Audience Feedback: David Schwehofer reported a compliment given by an audience member who had attended a previous parish council meeting. The person felt welcome and liked the atmosphere of the meeting.

CONCLUDING PRAYER At 8:03 Mary Endres read from *Colossians*:

Put on Love that is the bond of Perfection!

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Nutter
Parish Council Secretary

<p>NEXT MEETING: Monday April 12, 2010 Holy Cross Site Office 6:30 PM</p>
