

**Assumption Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
December 14, 2004**

**Members in Attendance**

Bob Bianchetta	Scott Brasch	George Kaluzny	Fr. Mike Pennock
Ken Bonomo	Nancy Endrst	Laura Landers	Amy Seeley
Terry Bouvier	Norm Hook	Rosanne Matteson	

**Members Absent**

Char Krause  
Paul Middleton

**Guests**

Kenna Baskerville  
Marge Wills  
Nadine Valentino

**Opening**

Council President George Kaluzny called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Opening Prayer**

Laura Landers led the Parish council in the Opening Prayer.

**Pastor's Remarks**

None.

**Approval of Minutes**

George Kaluzny made a motion to accept the November 2004 minutes, Scott Brasch seconded, and motion carried.

**Commission Reports**

**Education**

George Kaluzny gave the report written by Paul Middleton.

*R.E.*

- 1) Although the Thanksgiving Children's Mass was a bit chaotic, we packed the Lord's house with children and their families and the children sang the song of Thanksgiving to their parents! We are working on a plan that is not as confusing for next year. The children love being in the church and a part of the parish family celebration!
- 2) Congratulations to the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are the winners of the Pizza party in January because they donated the largest number of food items for the food pantry. Way to go 2<sup>nd</sup> grade! Thanks to all that helped with the children on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

- 3) Advent Confession was a part of the class session for 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> & Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> were told to make confessions as needed at one of the times available through Christmas.
- 4) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students are already planning and organizing the Community FUN DAY on February 6<sup>th</sup>! This day will be a day for any pre-school through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. The day will consist of fun, food, games and prizes.
- 5) The Christmas Program will be performed following the 11:00 am Mass this Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. It will include a program play, favorite Christmas songs, and cookies with Santa. The school classrooms will be open for parents to visit and see what their children have been up to. Again, we are very grateful for the help of Honor Trotter as Play Director and for Carrie Carpenter and Cindi Grove, our music ministry team.
- 6) We are still in need of a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade catechist for Tuesday afternoons from 3:00pm – 4:30pm.
- 7) We have turned over the Helping Hands program to the Youth Ministry. After receiving very little response from the seniors of the community, and due to the recent contact the teens have had with the senior citizens of the community, our Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Mary Pellack thought the program would be more interactive if they coordinated it. We appreciate their dedication to the well-being of the seniors of our parish and the community as a whole.
- 8) Letters have gone out to all families registered in the Religious Education Program inviting them to enhance their relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ through Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel. They are instructed to call Kenna to sign up for a time slot.
- 9) The Christmas break begins after this Sunday's class sessions. There are no class sessions from December 21<sup>st</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Class Sessions will resume on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 10) A look ahead...January 5<sup>th</sup> is our Catechist Meeting and January 23<sup>rd</sup> is the Senior Citizens Card Party, hosted by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Service

Kenna Baskerville gave the report written by Char Krause.

## CCW

- 1) The recipient of the LouAnn Pachetti scholarship - Robert Kaluzny will receive his award this month after a successful semester at college. Congratulations Robert!
- 2) CCW Christmas dinner was held in the Berst Center on December 2.
- 3) At that meeting the group voted to assist St. Vincent's Table by providing funds to purchase tableware - plates, cups, etc.
- 4) With the help of the 5th grade RE students - letters from the students were mailed (about 20) along with class pictures to Jhon Fredy Salsas Pineda of Cartegna, Columbia - Jhon Fredy is the CFCA sponsored child of CCW
- 5) Collected money for the Christmas flowers this past weekend after masses.
- 6) Will not meet again until March 2005

## Elizabeth Ministry

Met Dec. 6th

- 1) The group changed its leadership roles and will now be led by Mrs. Roseanne Matteson & Cindy Grove - meal coordinator Lorraine Pierard - Rosebud Coordinator.
- 2) The group chose to cancel the January presentation by Jill Savage
- 3) Will continue the meals for families of new babies and the Rosebud Program as well as ministering to families in need.
- 4) Will not meet again until May 2005

## Marthas

- 1) Meeting scheduled for today was cancelled due to a funeral - what the Marthas do BEST - funeral luncheons.

## St. Vincent de Paul

- 1) St. Vincent's Table is serving about 30 people on Monday nights.
- 2) St. Vincent de Paul Society still has 30 cookbooks left for sale.
- 3) Assisted 10 families with rent or electricity for the month of November
- 4) Planning a garage sale - starting Thursday March 3....Will start collecting items on February 25. They will NOT be collecting books, shoes, electronics or heavy furniture. Always a great attraction at these sales are tools....clean out those tool boxes and work benches!
- 5) Articles about St. Vincent's table appeared locally in the Courant and also in the Joliet Herald.

#### Food Pantry

- 1) The food pantry has been wonderfully busy since early November with the holiday baskets. This year a Thanksgiving basket was added to the holiday program and on November 18th approximately 85 families received a Thanksgiving meal. The First Baptist church hosted the distribution with Pastor Wilson's permission and help carrying out the food boxes to the cars. The boxes were purchased from the Northern Illinois food Bank and consisted of a 12-14 lb turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry, cake mix, rye crisp, corn and green beans. Pumpkin pies were purchased from IGA to add to the boxes along with bags of paper products from the Elwood distribution center.
- 2) The senior citizens received their holiday gift baskets through the faithful work of Sr. Dorothy and Marilyn Hook and her family. The baskets consisted of lotion, deodorant, soap, socks and handkerchiefs.
- 3) Donations from businesses, individuals and canisters have been pouring into the rectory. A thank you picture was taken on 12/9 for the Coal City Courant and Joann Peters will be mailing out thank yous. Compared to last year available funds the account is down by about \$5,000.
- 4) Christmas food collection was accomplished through the area's youth organizations and dropped off in the Berst Center on 12/5. Volunteers worked tirelessly 12/6 through 12/10 to sort and prepare the baskets for distribution on 12/11. Many thanks to the joyful, peace filled direction and work of Pat Dooley, Joann Peters and Nancy Lyons who succeeded in keeping things on track and

running smoothly. Many grateful thank yous to Lisa Dooley for organizing and re-organizing the toys for the children. All together 108 families were provided holiday food baskets and over 160 children received gifts. Thanks be to God.

### Respect Life

- 1) HB 3589 - Stem Cell Research "Clone and Kill Bill" did NOT pass November 18th in the Illinois Senate. The vote was 28 yea to 29 nay with one voting present. This is a victory for pro-life in Illinois!
- 2) A Pro-Life prayer service - 32nd Anniversary of Roe v Wade - will be held January 16th at 2pm (Sunday) with Benediction and Homily by Bishop Roger Kaffer St. Paul Church located on Woodlawn Ave in Joliet
- 3) A group from Assumption Parish will participate in the Joliet Diocese 2nd Annual bus trip to the March for Life on Jan 22 - Jan. 25.
- 4) There will be opportunities to participate in March for Life activities in our parish for the many who cannot attend the march but wish to support life!
- 5) Assumption Parish now has its own certified Billings Ovulation Method Instructor. Natural Family Planning Classes - included with Marriage Prep program are available to anyone and are the accepted and promoted method of the church.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1601

"The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the *procreation and education of offspring*; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament".

The Catholic church clearly teaches that it is wrong to use unnatural methods of birth control. In addition, birth control products and the IUD can cause early abortions. NFP is medically safe, 100% natural, increases health awareness, is 99% effective, low cost, immediately reversible, morally acceptable, builds better marriages and lets God reign in the heart and marriage by respecting God's order of creation and letting God be God in our personal lives.

## **Worship**

Kenneth Bonomo gave the report.

- 1). There will be a New Years Eve Holy Hour 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the Church. There will be a decade of the rosary prayed and silent adoration. All interested people are invited to attend.
- 2). There is a new carpet in the back of the church that was given to the parish as an anonymous Christmas present. The new carpeting covers the area of missing carpet where the pew was removed for handicapped seating.
- 3). Beautiful 2005 Calendar was given to the parish by Reeves Family Funeral Home. It is available for parishioners in the back of the church.
- 4). Christmas Mass schedule is as follows:  
Christmas Eve (Friday) Hall: 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
Christmas Day (Saturday) 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11 a.m.  
There will be no 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day for Sunday Masses
- 5). January 1<sup>st</sup> (Solemnity of Mary) is not a holy day of obligation as it usually is. There will be 10 a.m. Mass on New Years Day. 5 p.m Mass on January 1<sup>st</sup> will meet the Sunday Mass Obligation.
- 6.) Miraculous Medals, Scapulars, and Rosaries were donated to the Church by the Legion of Mary. They are available to parishioners at the back of the Church.
- 7). There was an anonymous donation of Our Lady of Guadalupe Cards on Sunday December 12 in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (which wasn't officially celebrated because the memorial fell on a Sunday.)

## *Adoration Committee Notes*

- 1) Choosing a name for our chapel - suggested name - Blessed Mother Teresa Eucharistic Chapel, suggested to include a picture of Blessed Mother Teresa inside the chapel
- 2) Need to pray for a response to the call to promote adoration as many will be needed to assist when our guest speaker arrives Jan 8/9 and with promoting and maintaining adoration after.

- 3) Jan 8/9 will be considered "Sign-up Sunday" when after the homily all members of the parish will be handed an invitation to respond to the call to adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament
- 4) Will work on preparing "Adoration Packets" to distribute to the present committed adorers as well as posting the schedule and having a sign-in sheet. Adorers need to be reminded of the importance of attending their Holy Hour.
- 5) Post Adoration information on parish website
- 6) Include in petitions at daily/weekend mass for an increase in Adoration
- 7) Invitation to adoration in parishes in the area that do not have adoration via their bulletins to join us at Assumption
- 8) To order Adoration material - such as cards to send to someone you are devoting your adoration hour for / suggested was a box for donations in the chapel to replenish the supply when needed
- 9) Encouraging all parish organizations to participate in Eucharistic Adoration
- 10) All present adorers need to extend a personal invitation as people may volunteer if personally asked.
- 11) Friday - a day to pray and perform acts of penance for the needs of PEA in the parish
  - to encourage all presently participating to do so.
- 12) The Eucharistic Adoration Team will consist of the most enthusiastic Adorers headed by the Pastor with the Head Co-Ordinator who should meet every two weeks working on ways to promote PEA as the source and summit of the parish.
- 13) Bulletin inserts/announcements referring the various aspects of adoration.

### **Administration**

Roseanne Matteson reported.

- 1) George Kaluzny made a motion that the October 2004 financial reports be accepted, Amy Seeley seconded the motion, and the motion was carried 11-0.

- 2) Discussed the manner in which the Berst Center is being used and rented out. George Kaluzny recommended that an e-mail listing some of the issues concerning the manner in being used be sent out to the parish council members and that the issue will be looked at in greater depth in a future Parish council meeting.

#### *Building Committee Update*

- 1) No new information

#### **Old Business**

- 1) *Parish Census*- Nadine Valentino reported that the Parish Census was going well with a 50% return rate on the letters that were sent out. Some people updated family information. About 40 families asked to be removed from our list, while another 14 letters were returned as undeliverable. To further along the progress of the census reminders will be posted in the bulletin and from the pulpit and a box will be put in the back of the church with Census sheets. A newspaper ad will also be posted in the local paper asking parishioners to take part in the census.
- 2) *Status of Pictorial Directory*- Char Krause reported that the Pictorial directories are finished and will be delivered by January 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **New Business**

- 1) The Parish Council received a letter from Melissa Bianchetta requesting support to attend a mission trip to Nazareth Farm. George Kaluzny made a motion that the council provide \$25.00 towards Melissa's mission fees. Nancy Endrst seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- 2) Issue was brought up that there is a need for Offeratory Counters needed. There is a need for two people to be with the collections at all times to secure it and count the money. The Parish council is leaning towards having the counting of the money done on days other than on Sundays.

#### **Questions for the Pastor**

No questions for the Pastor this month.

#### **Open Forum**

- 1) Amy Seeley commented on Scott Peterson receiving the death penalty and the irony that he was convicted of murdering his unborn child, while a mother could do the same thing legally. Parish council was in agreement with her sentiments.

#### **President's Remarks**

George Kaluzny commented on the fact that Jesus is the Reason for the season. He comment on the fact that our society is starting to see the Christmas season as the

“holiday season”. The Parish council discussed the manner in which our society has hijacked our holy season.

**Adjournment**

Parish Council was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m. by President George Kaluzny.

**Closing Prayer**

Father Mike led the Council in closing prayer and the Parish Council was dismissed at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Bonomo, Secretary