

**St. Anthony of Padua Parish**  
*Parish Council Meeting Minutes*  
October 22, 2013

In Attendance: Fr. Gerry Mahoney, OSFS, Fr. Nick Waseline, OSFS, Anthony Albence, Mark Blaschke, D. Linda Brunozzi, Tony Candeloro, Furio Casale, Pete Gigliotti, Pete Giorgi, Lynn Kee, Josephine Panariello, John Potts, Lucretia Serio, Elaine Serpe, Judy White

Excused: Paul Ceresini, Anthony Frabizzio, Patty Roach

- Opening Prayer
  - Fr. Nick led the group in a prayer reflection focused on the Parish Mission Statement and Parish Mission Statement.
- Approval of September Meeting Minutes
  - Furio moved and John Potts seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
- High School Representatives Report
  - None present. No report.
- Discussion Items
  - Parish Facilities Manager
    - Fr. Nick recapped the needs of the parish in this area. At this point, the search team working on this is evaluating options for a long-term approach and a path forward.
  - *Sustaining Hope in the Future* Diocesan Campaign
    - Approximately 40% of campaign envelopes have been picked up by parishioners attending weekly Masses.
    - Remaining envelopes may be mailed. Cost of such a mailing is a major concern. Alternate approaches to envelope distribution are being considered.
    - Follow-up meetings with selected prospective donors will be held over the next several weeks.
  - Parish Survey Update
    - Approximately 200 surveys were completed, with a roughly 50/50 split of those completed online vs. paper format.
    - Tabulation of surveys is nearing completion (approximately 80 completed)
    - A report consolidating the results of the survey will be compiled & presented to the parish, as well as a pastoral plan based on the information gathered, will be prepared.
  - Parish Directory Update
    - Anthony A. and Linda provided an update.

- The final draft of the directory had been approved and submitted to the publisher. The directories will be mailed starting approximately 11/1/2013. Complimentary copies of the directory will be mailed to all parishioners who were photographed. A limited number of additional copies will be available at the parish (for a nominal fee).
    - Copies of the parishioner listing by name will be distributed (in printed or electronic form) to these parishioners as well.
  - St. Anthony in the Hills Study
    - Fr. Nick continues work with the Hills Board of Directors on a comprehensive study of facilities operations and planning.
    - Fr. Nick reported on a recent joint Corporation and Board of Directors meeting for St. Anthony in the Hills. The meeting was productive and provided insights into the path forward to foster strategic growth.
    - A complaint was recently filed with PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding environmental violations at the Hills. The parish is cooperating fully with the DEP and engaging professional advice to resolve the issues at hand.
- Grade School Report
  - Current enrollment is at 277 students, 19 more than at the close of the previous school year (a net enrollment increase of more than 6%)
    - The air conditioning project is now complete.
    - Judy distributed a comprehensive report of school activities, accompanied by a school calendar. She encouraged Council members to review the materials at their leisure
- Committee Updates
  - Parish and Family Life
    - First monthly social of the fall season was held 10/6. Turnout of approximately 135 parishioners and friends for this event.
    - Two new volunteers have joined the committee, and have already volunteered at the October social.
    - The gold/precious metals event was successful. The firm sponsoring this event is interested in booking another event at the parish.
  - Social Concerns
    - No report.
  - Building and Maintenance
    - No report (topics covered under Discussion Items)
  - Liturgy/Parish Liturgical Life/Music Ministry
    - Liturgy/Parish Liturgical Life
      - The committee held a retreat/meeting on 9/14. At this gathering, plans were made regarding several planned "special" liturgies for the fall season.
        - Some revisions to practices for the Advent season will be introduced this year.

- Fr. Nick announced that a Parish Liturgical Forum would be offered again on 3/22/2014. The upcoming forum's topic will be derived from a recent article regarding the Vatican II document: *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*.
  - Music Ministry
    - The *cantoria* (choir loft) will be locked in the near future, as a number of items for choir use have been accumulated and are being stored in this area.
    - Work is underway on a Mass of Adoration and study/reconsideration of the Mass of St. Anthony, originally composed by Angela Curran Ryan.
    - The Columbus Day Mass went very well, with thanks to Jean Scalessa for her assistance as cantor/Mass coordinator (who recently joined the event committee).
    - Planning for the Mass of Remembrance is underway. Maj. Gen. Francis Vavala, Adjutant General of the Delaware National Guard, will attend and speak at the 11AM Mass on 11/10.
    - A new member has joined the choir, and two new cantors have now signed on (for a total of 13 cantors overall).
    - Plans for another Epiphany Concert are now underway (planned for 1/5/2014).
    - Planning is underway to assemble a contemporary music group, which includes some musicians experienced in this area.
    - Work continues to adjust & fine-tune the church sound system.
- Italian Festival
  - This year's Festival went well, despite a drop in revenue with two nights cancelled due to weather. Final financial totals will be finalized soon.
  - The implementation of the Point of Sale (POS) & mobile payment system went very well, as did the establishment of the new Alley Bar. Bar/formatting of the area that formerly housed the Surfside Café.
  - Some food items remain available for sale. Please contact Anthony A. if interested in purchasing any items.
- Respect Life
  - The committee held its October meeting on 10/2. (Meeting nights are first Wednesdays of the month.) New members are always welcome.
  - The Diocesan Pro-Life workshop was held on 9/21 at St. Polycarp Parish in Smyrna led by Fr. Leonard Klein.
  - The 40 Days of Life (9/25-11/3) program will continue, and the committee is seeking Padua & Salesianum students to participate on the dates of the campaign that St. Anthony's is responsible for staffing (i.e., 10/11 & 11/23).

- Padua students will join committee members to pray the rosary at Planned Parenthood in downtown Wilmington on 10/23.
  - The Bottles for Babies program is currently underway. Please return the bottles to church at Masses over the next few weeks.
  - Crosses erected near the church entrance to mark the toll of abortion (month of October) will remain through the end of the month.
  - A "Life Chain" event will be held on 10/6 at the Astra Zeneca campus on U.S. 202.
  - The committee will host at table at the monthly parish social in January 2014 (Epiphany Sunday).
  - The committee is requesting that the literature rack in the church vestibule which contains life issue-related info be moved from the corner near the Religious Goods store to near the visitor's sign-in book.
  - The committee is planning efforts to educate regarding the topic of assisted suicide. A bill permitting this practice will likely be introduced in the Delaware General Assembly in the current legislative session.
  - St. Anthony's clergy will be invited to attend the 12/8 Knights of Columbus dinner as guests of the committee.
  - Parishioner input for potential committee activities has been solicited via the parish bulletin.
- YAC
    - A fundraiser will be held at Famous Tim's tavern on 11/9 from 7PM-9PM.
  - Scouting
    - Girl Scouts
      - No report.
    - Boy Scouts
      - Vincent Panella's Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on 10/19.
      - The troop's next camping trip is at St. Anthony in the Hills this coming weekend, and the last camping trip will be held at Camp Rodney in November.
      - Approximately ten Cub Scouts from another troop have expressed interest in joining St. Anthony's troop due to superior leadership.
      - Cub Scout parents are pleased that Boy Scouts actively participate in the Cub Scout "Pack" meetings.
      - Dante Vella was elected by the Boy Scout troop to serve as Senior Patrol Leader.
  - Saint Anthony in the Hills
    - See update above under *Discussion Items*.
  - Holy Name Society
    - No report (see item under *Announcements/Pastor's Comments*)

- Sodality
  - The October meeting was held on 10/15, and the November meeting is scheduled for 11/19.
  - The Mother & Daughter Communion Breakfast will be held on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Sunday, 12/8). Breakfast will be held after the 9:00AM Mass in the Ballad Room, catered by Creations by Catherine. Fr. Nick will be the guest speaker for the event. New members will be installed at this event.

#### Old Business

- None
- New Business
  - The annual Columbus Day Communion Breakfast was held on Columbus Day, 10/14/2013. The event was very successful. Initial contributions of \$4,000.00 were made to the Grade School air conditioning project and the Oblate Retirement fund, respectively.
  - Additional contributions may be made, if possible, when all expenses for the event have been paid.
- Announcements/Pastor's Comments
  - Fr. Nick provided a brief update on a vehicle break-in at the parking lot across from the Grade School. The parish will investigate the option of enhancing video surveillance on the property.
  - Fr. Nick will be interviewing a possible candidate for a Deacon for the parish.
  - The Holy Name Society has offered assistance in clearing Fr. Roberto's former room in the rectory.
  - Fr. Nick offered some liturgical updates regarding plans for Christ the King and Advent.
- Closing Prayer
  - Fr. Mahoney offered the Closing Prayer.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, 11/26/2013**





## Parish Council October 22, 2013 Grade School Report – Judy White

I have witnessed several exciting things as I have been doing teacher observations. I would like to share some of those observations with you. I refreshed my knowledge of phonics with Second Grade, learning prefixes and suffixes. In Fifth grade, I learned a lot. I came across them in two different classes. I learned creative ways to proudly display my name in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Art, using lettering themes and word pictures. Then, I worked on my writing and grammar skills as the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade worked collaboratively in small groups on sentence variety. They transitioned into Social Studies while I was in the room, and I learned how to make a winter count, something I had never seen before. I love that our 5<sup>th</sup> Graders shared their Catholicism in their representations of their life events. Kindergarten was busy at the SMART Board using their new Reading Series. The story came alive as the book was read to them electronically. They worked collaboratively as well. Most shockingly, these intelligent 5 year olds knew what the word “collaboratively” meant when Mrs. Potts instructed them to work that way. We talked about family traditions in Mrs. Waritz’s Third Grade Reading class. She was also using the new Common Core Reading series with the students, asking them to think critically and more deeply about how and why we do things in a certain way. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science was also informative. The children presented during the entire time I was in the room. It was impressive. They shared their Nutrition/ Healthy Eating projects with the class. They had developed their own recipes and cookbooks and shared yummy samples as a bonus. As I entered the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade classroom, I was happy to see them beginning to pray a decade of the Rosary. I was impressed by 4<sup>th</sup> Grade’s knowledge of the Joyful Mysteries. As they studied the Joyful Mysteries, they illustrated their interpretations of each. They were proud to show me their artwork. Great things are happening this year.

**I would like to thank our Student Council Officers for all that they do.** They have several responsibilities. They are the most amazing tour guides. They meet after school with the Teacher Moderators. They have been meeting with me during the day as well and sharing new ideas for the school year. Look forward to those ideas! Thank you to Nikko DiSimplico (President), Carly Truitt (Vice President), Michael Cautillo (Secretary), Caroline Achenbach (Treasurer), and Nicholas Muzzi (Historian).

**More Student Council News:** Grades 3 through 8 have the opportunity to be members of Student Council as Class Representatives. **Allow me to introduce our 2013-2014 Class Representatives:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Makenzie Truitt, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mackenzie McCall, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Isabella Cerasoli, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Jaidon Godlewski, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Ben Demosthene, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Makenna Sarver. **The Class Alternates are as follows:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – A.J. Conteh, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Jessica Williams, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Sadie Falcone-Testardi, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Noelle DiVirgilio, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Cara Quinlan, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Michael Brelick.

**Parent Teacher Conferences were held Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.**

This was a nice opportunity to meet with parents and see how the year is progressing. We heard a lot of positive feedback.

**Safety Patrol began since we last met at Parish Council** I want to thank the following students and their parents for their efforts to keep our students safe while crossing the street in the morning and at dismissal. Thank you to Cori Perazza, Nick Willis, Brian Pollack, Christina Molloy, Christian Kennedy, A.J. Conteh, Thomas Spencer, Trey Bruton, Makenzie Truitt, James Mazalewski, and Andrew Halberg. These students help to enforce traffic laws and ensure that all students come and go from school in a safe manner.



**Family Bingo Night was held on October 12<sup>th</sup>.** This was the first one I ever missed. It was a success thanks to our Home and School Board, Paul Ceresini in particular.

**September's Franciscan Spirituality Award:** Our Franciscan Spirit award goes to the following students for their constant **hospitality** throughout the month of September. These students made others feel welcome, included them, and were representative of the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. Preschool 3 year olds- Xavian Pabon, Preschool 4 year olds - Mia Tabron, Kindergarten-Lakeves Laws, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade -Hannah McGuigan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade -Avara Lingerfelt, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Kyle Reynolds, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade -Madison Rieger, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade -Tori Alberti, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Julia Wood, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Nick DeLuca, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Brian Pollack. Now that our students have learned more deeply about his life, I look forward to hearing how our students will follow in the humble spirit of St. Francis of Assisi in the month of October.

**We celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4<sup>th</sup>.** We had an absolutely wonderful celebration on the Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, one of our beloved patron saints. We began the day, as we do every Friday, with 8 A.M. Mass. Our Pastor, Father Nick, reminded us during Mass to continue to be the best we can be, in the spirit of our other patron Saint Francis de Sales. Immediately following Mass, we had a presentation by Charlie Baker, an actor who portrayed the life of St. Francis of Assisi for the children in grades 4 through 8. He was dynamic, and his voice filled the church. He was a one-man act. The students were so reverent during this hour long play. We hosted Padua Academy Juniors for their service project that day as well. At 2 P.M., we had our annual Blessing of the Animals in Father Tucker Field. Father Nick kindly did this prayer service. I am grateful to Father for fitting us in the day before he flew to Italy.

**Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady Queen of Peace:** Thank you to Mr. Colligan and the Antonians for representing our school so magnificently at the pilgrimage. Please visit the school website for pictures. The beautiful sounds of our children singing hushed a church filled with hundreds of students throughout the Diocese of Wilmington. I was so proud of them, singing unrehearsed and unplanned, as we waited for the Rosary to begin. We prayed as a community of believers the Rosary with our dear Bishop Malooly. Bishop Malooly greeted every single child as they exited the bus, upon arrival to Holy Spirit Catholic Church. The short visit to Fatima was a great reminder of why we are all in this mission together: for our youth and for our continued success as a Catholic Diocese.

**100 Hours of Service in honor of Father Roberto Balducelli, O.S.F.S. –** Former parent and current coach, Pam Everman, has offered to oversee a 3 session project to encourage students to do volunteer hours in Father Roberto's honor. Service projects will include making sandwiches for the Emmanuel Dining room and making blankets for Project Linus and the Delaware Humane Society. Detailed information was sent home this week. There will be three 2 hour sessions, after school on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Children do not need to sign up for all three sessions, but they are absolutely encouraged to do so.

**Attention Parishioners:** Our PREP Program is in need of substitutes for Grades 2 through 8. Please contact Patty Roach if you are interested in helping out. This would involve substituting on Sunday mornings from 10:05 to 10:50 am in the school.

**Very special thank you to Battaglia Electric and Mr. Joe DiVirgilio!!!** I am happy to say that all classrooms are air conditioned, with the exceptions of Kindergarten and the library. This has been a goal for the 13 years I have been employed here in the grade school. Thank you to Father Nick for approving this huge expense. Thank you to the Home and School Board, the Columbus Day Committee, the Reunion Committee and our individual donors for helping this project come to fruition. This project makes our school more marketable and sustainable.

**Grandparents Day was wonderful!** October 10<sup>th</sup> was one of our best attended Grandparents Days ever. We love our Grandparents!!! There were many volunteers to thank for the days success. Teri DiSimplico, Lynn DeLuca, Carole Trzepacz, Cathy Truver, and Jennifer Quinlan made the Ballad Room a beautiful and welcoming place for grandparents to gather and enjoy a snack. Brother Frank, our Antonians, and our Student Council made sure the prayer service was memorable for all. Our teachers and office staff were behind the scenes as always! My maintenance team helped move chairs around to accommodate the grandparents as they moved from classrooms to the gymnasium. The Book Fair was terrific as well! Thank you to Shari Muzzi, Josephine Rybicki, Lynn DeLuca, and Brian and Aileen Westcott for their work on the fair. We could never have predicted the large number of Grandparents that would attend. Even with RSVP's, over 50 unexpected grandparents arrived that day, for a total of approximately 400 grandparents. Despite the rain, the children's spirits were not dampened. The building was alive and full of excitement.

**Grotto Night was a huge success on October 16<sup>th</sup>.** Our numbers are not in yet, but Grotto Night on Pennsylvania Avenue was packed. I was happy I arrived early. This is always a nice easy night for friends and family to gather together. Thank you to Karen Truitt for organizing this event.

**Columbus Day Breakfast:** Thank you to our Columbus Day Committee. The Columbus Day Committee presented our school with a \$4,000.00 check at the breakfast on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Our faculty, staff, and student body are truly grateful. This money will be used to help offset the cost for the air conditioning project.

**Upcoming Halloween Hayride and Party at the Hills:** Please join us this Saturday night at St. Anthony in the Hills for our annual Halloween party/hayride. This event is always very well attended. Contact the grade school office at 421-3743 for tickets.

**Principal for the Day - October 29<sup>th</sup>:** Next week I will host a Principal for the day from our Wilmington community. Mr. Jason Swift, father of Luke and Jude Swift, will spend the day with me and find out what an average day is like in a Catholic elementary school. I am sure this will prove to be quite different from his career in banking and finance.