

St. Anthony of Padua Parish

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2014

In Attendance: Fr. Gerry Mahoney, OSFS, Fr. Frank Rinaldi, OSFS, Fr. Nick Waseline, OSFS, Anthony Albence, Mark Blaschke, Linda Brunozzi, Anthony Frabizzio, Pete Gigliotti, Lynn Kee, John Potts, Patty Roach, Lucretia Serio, Elaine Serpe, Vincent Vella

Excused: Tony Candeloro, Furio Casale, Jim DelGrosso, Pete Giorgi, Josephine Panariello, Judy White

Guest: Lisa Marsilii

- Opening Prayer
 - Fr. Nick led the group in a prayer entitled *Canticle of Redemption*.
 - Pete Gigliotti moved and Linda seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
- High School Representatives Report
 - Vincent Vella, a parishioner and Senior at Salesianum School, attended and provided a comprehensive update on Salesianum. Details included:
 - Course selection process is underway, including the addition of STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math)-focused classes.
 - A writing center will be launched next year to improve student writing quality.
 - The various snow cancellation days have necessitated efforts to make up lost instructional time.
 - The Encounter retreat program has also experienced interruptions, and alternate arrangements are being made to compensate for this situation.
 - The iPad program will be deployed to all students (including seniors) for the next academic year.
 - The school will be undertaking an exercise, facilitated by staff from The University of Notre Dame, comparing the school with similar institutions.
 - Salesianum earned a “triple crown” of athletic championships in the fall. The basketball team will be playing in the State playoffs.
 - Fr. Nick requested that Vincent assist him with gathering some young people for a youth-focused forum to discuss needs regarding young people in the parish.
- Discussion Items
 - *Sustaining Hope in the Future* Diocesan Campaign
 - The parish has made progress towards our assessed campaign goal. The current status is approximately 58% of the diocesan assessment goal.
 - An additional appeal to potential major donors will be made over the next few weeks.
 - Annual Catholic Appeal Update
 - Parish Goal is \$72,000 for this year.
 - Announcement Weekend is March 22-23 & Commitment Weekend is March 29-30.
 - Parish Survey Update
 - Fr. Nick recapped the status of the distribution of survey results, and the status of the planning efforts regarding the Parish Planning Commission. An initial meeting will be held to which all parishioners who have expressed interest in participating in the Commission will be invited.

- St. Anthony in the Hills
 - Dedicated work towards remediation of environmental concerns continues, and should wrap up in the next few weeks (weather permitting).
 - The planning for a possible concert series continues. Some neighbors have begun to voice opposition to the proposal. The parish and New Garden, PA, Township Supervisors (governing body of the municipality in which the property is located) are awaiting an interpretation of the Township's nuisance ordinance (which governs noise issues), as it is quite vague. The opinion is expected to be ready for the Township Supervisors' March meeting (to be held on 3/17).
- Parish Pastoral Council Elections
 - Fr. Nick announced that elections will be held between Easter and the Italian Festival. More information will be forthcoming on this.
- Grade School Report
 - Principal Judy White provided a written report. (attached)
 - Highlights included:
 - Enrollment/re-enrollment is moving ahead at a brisk pace.
 - Catholic Schools Week activities were well-attended.
 - The ceremony dedicating the Fournier Gym to Br. Mike was a great event.
 - Hosts for visitors from Wilmington's Italian sister city, Olevano sul Tusciano, are still needed.
- Music Ministry Report
 - Director of Music Ministry Mark Blaschke provided a written report. (attached)
 - Highlights included:
 - A meeting was held recently with Padua Head of School Cindy Mann to discuss recruiting Padua students as Mass cantors.
 - A new keyboard has been donated to the parish.
 - Student greeters from Padua will be featured at the Gala Concert and the evening concerts during the Italian Festival.
 - The Delaware Commission on Italian Heritage and Culture has awarded \$5000.00 to offset costs for the Gala Concert.
 - A review of wiring (& some wiring improvements) in the expanded choir loft have been completed.
 - The annual Italo-Americans United Memorial Mass was held on February 16th.
 - The Liturgy Committee met in early February. The meeting focused on a review of the Christmas season, and planning is underway for the Lenten season.
- Committee Updates
 - Parish and Family Life
 - The February monthly social was well-attended. The next monthly social will be held on Sunday, 3/2.
 - Parish Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Palm Sunday, 4/13, in the Grade School.
 - Salesianum's alumni office is interested in adopting the parish event as a model for their inaugural Easter Egg Hunt event.
 - Social Concerns
 - No report.
 - Building and Maintenance
 - No report.

- Liturgy/Parish Liturgical Life/Music Ministry
 - See Music Ministry report.
- Italian Festival
 - Cultural region will be Ascoli Piceno in Le Marche province.
 - La Casa Pasta/Chesapeake Inn will return to operate the Ballad Room.
 - The POS system will be returning, and negotiations are underway with potential sponsors to offset system costs.
 - Wednesday Setup Nights begin on 4/9. A Setup Night will not be held on 4/16 (Wednesday of Holy Week), and will resume on 4/23 and continue through 6/4.
- Respect Life
 - No report.
- YAC
 - Dedication of the Fournier Gym to Br. Mike was held on 2/1. The event was a great success and was very well-attended.
- Scouting
 - Girl Scouts
 - Cookie Sale was a success. A total of 200 cases sold (2,200 cookies). The troop thanks the parish for all the support.
 - Boy Scouts
 - Boy Scout Troop held its Court of Honor, which is held twice yearly. This was held in conjunction with Scout Sunday at the parish (& which is also a nationwide celebration held at various houses of worship). Scouts were recognized for earning various ranks and merit badges. Three Cub Scouts “crossed over” to become Boy Scouts at this event.
 - Troop members attended the second session of Merit Badge College on 2/22.
 - Boy Scout Troop/Cub Scout Pack 88 Pancake Breakfast fundraiser was held on 2/23. This is the primary fundraiser for the Troop & Pack, and funds activities for the remainder of the year.
- Saint Anthony in the Hills
 - See Discussion Item above.
- Holy Name Society
 - No report.
- Sodality
 - The Sodality’s monthly Mass and meeting was held on Sunday, 2/16, followed by a meeting.
- Old Business
 - None
- New Business
 - SACRED at Salesianum was well-attended by St. Anthony’s parishioners (including PREP instructors).
- Announcements/Pastor’s Comments
 - CYM Keychain Sunday for new drivers will be held at the 9AM Mass on Sunday, 3/2.
- Closing Prayer
 - Fr. Rinaldi offered the Closing Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, 3/25/2014

Grade School Report for Parish Council February 25, 2014 – Submitted by Judy White

In the month of February, we continue to teach the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. We are focusing on “visiting the sick” at the primary level and “forgiving offenses willingly” at the middle school level. This is a great opportunity to discuss why it is important that we visit the homebound, elderly, and those who are hospitalized. We remind the children that we have the ability to heal others through love. This can apply to those who suffer physically, psychologically, or spiritually. We also used this month associated with “love” to share stories with our children about times we have forgiven someone without prompting or praise. It is far easier to prove when we are correct, rather than initiate the act of forgiveness and be humble. Forgiveness is a truly loving act.

Welcome Wilmington University Practicum student, JoAnn Finocchiaro! She will be in Kindergarten observing Mrs. Potts for 35 hours. She will be here 5-6 days.

Welcome Neumann University Students! Juliann Huczko, Gabrielle Alfaro, and Shanelle Doucette will be spending time in Second, Third and Fourth Grades this spring. Our students are excited to have them in class.

Congratualtions to our Math League Champions! Javier Lorenzo, Joseph Nicotra, Mackenzie McCall, and Cameron Trezpacz will attend the state tournament and banquet representing St. Anthony’s. This is an honor. Invitations to the state championship are individually based on the number of correct math questions answered correctly during the meets. Having 4 students represent our middle school is impressive. Way to go!

Snow Make up Days: We have 8 snow days to date. We are required to make up 6, as 2 were state of emergencies. We will now have school on the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday after Easter. We had class on President’s Day. We will also have school on our faculty retreat day and on our professional development day, scheduled for March 17th. Any additional snow days will not require a make-up.

Congratulations to Nicholas DiOssi! Nicholas earned Second Honors at St. Mark’s High School during the Second Quarter. Way to go!

Congratulations to our Salesian gentlemen, who earned honors for the Second Marking Period! Principal’s List: Jason Barbato, Adam Barbato, Henry Cheung, Julian DiSimplico, Richard Evans, and Daniel Turk First Honors: Tyler Baldo, Joseph Cautillo, Connor Horvath, Nicholas LeSieur, Matthew Lochstoer, Daniel Moreno, Sean Riley, Brandon Truitt, Vincent Vella, Dante Vella, Christopher White, and Austin Wilk. Second Honors: Angelo Alberti, Jack Booth, and Dante Cautillo

From Felix Spitelli and the Knights of Columbus: "I just wanted to let you know that St. Anthony students contributed a total of 219 lbs of food for St. Patrick's Center for the Knights "Souper" Bowl campaign." Thank you to all of those families who remembered to send in their canned goods as admission to the volleyball game. I promised a picture from that event. Here is the Class of 2014. Look at those smiles! This is a terrific class. I will surely miss them!



Financial Aid Application Deadline is approaching! The deadline to apply for financial aid is **February 28th**. Packets are still available in the main office of the grade school. Please refer any families to our main office.

Welcome, Mrs. Suzanne Keller! Mrs. Keller is our new Title One teacher. Mrs. Siedman is out for surgery for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Keller had quickly adjusted to the schedule and is a wonderful addition to our staff. She has been a pleasure to work with, and the children are excited to have her working in small groups. Mrs. Keller is from Back to Basics. She sent an email letter of introduction to the parents of students receiving Title One services.

Thank you to all who came out to support Brother Michael Day at Fournier Hall on February 1st. Despite having a mild stroke just one week prior, Brother Mike was there and full of energy and words of wisdom. He was so proud to see his name on the gymnasium floor. He was beaming with pride. Special thanks to Nick Giofre for organizing this event!



Registration is ongoing! We are in the full swing of enrollment for next year. Registration forms are coming in, and we look forward to a healthy enrollment next school year.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Celebration: Congratulations to Mackenzie McCall, Andrew Halberg, and Caroline Achenbach who received "Honorable Mention" from the DuPont Office of Education in the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. These students were recognized "for commitment and collaboration they exhibit, the service they provide, and the respect they demonstrate to others: outstanding characteristics that support Dr. King's vision." They are pictured below.



Pictured below are our **January Franciscan Spirituality Award Recipients**. They earned a Dress Down day and a big smile from Sister Jamesanne Taggart.



Here are our Varsity Boy's Basketball Diocesan Champions! Our awesome St. Anthony's family came out to support the boys, after a busy Catholic Schools Week. The orange and black tiger pride helped lead them to victory over St. Elizabeth's, winning them the Tiger Tournament. This past weekend our boys played a difficult game against St. Edmonds for the Diocese of Wilmington Championship title. Our families of all ages once again showed their support. Our team won the title in a game of double overtime at Salesianum High School. Our boys showed great comradery, sportsmanship, and respect. Father Nick and my entire staff are so proud! They showed their Salesian strength and gentleness, both on and off the court.



Olevano Visitors: We are still looking for hosts for our Italian guests from Olevano. This is such a wonderful experience for your family.

Kindergarten Religion Play: Thank you to my Kindergarten class for inviting me to see their wonderful play. The students took turns playing the roles of Jesus and His disciples. They acted out the story of the loaves and fish. They learned a new word for friends (disciples).

Grotto Pizza Night /Ash Wednesday, March 5th - Mark your calendars. Please join us at Grotto's Pizza on Pennsylvania Avenue in Wilmington, anytime between 4 and 9pm. This is always a nice night to share a meal with school friends and families. As an added bonus, if you bring your voucher from school, our school earns 20% of your purchase. I hope to see you there!

Thank you to the 2014 Talent Show participants, shown below. You were amazing! We may have you do a repeat performance when our Olevano visitors are in town. Thank you to Mrs. Giofre, Ms. Palmer, and Mr. Fetters for all of their hard work making both the afternoon and evening performances entertaining.



Classroom Observations: I am currently doing formal teacher observations. This is a great opportunity to see all of the terrific things going on in our classrooms. It is also a nice break from the monotony of administrative paperwork and emails. It has been rewarding to see the Catholic identity of our teachers shining through in all areas of the curriculum they teach. When you attend a Catholic school, you really get more than just an education. Faith formation is at the heart of everything we do!

Diocesan Principal's Retreat: I will be away on retreat in Ocean City tomorrow through Friday. I will keep all of the members of Parish Council in my prayers. Thank you for the great work you do to help our parish and parish school continue to thrive. Your work is very much appreciated.