

## **St. Anthony of Padua Parish**

### *Parish Council Meeting Minutes*

February 26, 2015

In Attendance: Fr. Gerry Mahoney, OSFS, Fr. Frank Rinaldi, OSFS, Fr. Robert Rutledge, OSFS, Fr. Nick Waseline, OSFS, Br. Mike Rosenello, OSFS, Anthony Albence, Furio Casale, Paul Ceresini, Jim DelGrosso, Carol Ann Dougherty, Anthony Frabizzio, Dave Haney, Lynn Kee, Maria Panella, John Potts, Patty Roach, Elaine Serpe, Bob Shields

- Opening Prayer
  - Fr. Nick led the group in the Opening Prayer, focused on the Parish Pastoral Planning Process.
- Meeting Minutes
  - John moved and Anthony F. seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
- High School Representatives Report
  - None present
- Discussion Items
  - Parish Planning Commission
    - Fr. Nick offered insights on the latest updates on the Parish Planning Commission.
      - The process is underway and the Priority Area Teams (PATs) are meeting and into the “thick of things”. Fr. noted that he has intentionally stepped back to permit lay leadership of the process.
      - Fr. Nick requested Pastoral Council members to offer their input on the questions: Where will we be in five years? How will we get there?
      - Fr. Nick encouraged everyone to be mindful of Pope Francis’ call for all members of the laity to be “faithful disciples”.
- Grade School Report
  - Bob Shields provided a written report, which will be included as part of the meeting minutes. He highlighted the following items:
    - Re-enrollment currently stands at 167 students, which is “on track” for this time in the process. A total of six families will not return, none due to dissatisfaction with the school.
    - The Single Rate Tuition program has been well-received. Tuition still remains the second lowest in the Diocese.
    - The school is in the midst of the Middle States Reaccreditation process. The survey tools for the process were available online for the first time, and the response rate has been very high.
    - The challenge facing the school is finding substitute teachers, as all substitutes must be certified teachers.
- Committee Updates
  - Parish and Family Life
    - The committee is testing an updated schedule offering socials after the 9AM & 11AM Masses in February & March, and gauging attendance. Results from February were somewhat light attendance after the 9AM Mass, and stronger attendance after the 11AM Mass.
    - The Parish Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Palm Sunday, 3/29, following the 11AM Mass.

- Fr. Nick distributed the Preparatory Questionnaire for the Synod of Bishops. Anthony A. will create a SurveyMonkey survey & distribute the link to Pastoral Council members to complete. Responses are due by 3/29.
  - Building and Maintenance
    - The committee is in the process of being revitalized, & will be active at the conclusion of the Parish Planning Commission process.
    - Various parish properties (Padua Academy, Fournier Hall, St. Anthony in the Hills) will be appraised and potential adaptive/future uses will be studied.
  - Music Ministry Report
    - Louis provided Anthony A. the report (below). Anthony reviewed some key points of the report.
      - Louis was very pleased with the choir and congregation with the music introduced over the four Sundays of Advent. The Chanting of the Opening Propers along with the Communion Propers was received very well.
      - Christmas Midnight Mass was a “glorious event”. The choir was augmented by guest singers and presented the Mass in Honor of Saint Anthony, which was written for the parish at its inception, and not sung in its entirety since. It marked the 90th anniversary of the parish and the first Mass celebrated here, on Christmas Eve 90 years ago. A much larger crowd than in previous years attended this Mass.
      - Changes were made in the Cantor pool the first week of January. Choral scholars from the University of Delaware are now training as cantors and have begun singing at weekend masses. The acceptance of this change has been very encouraging.
      - Compliments from the clergy and congregation have been “astounding”. Congregational singing at Masses notes has markedly improved. Attendance at the 11 AM Choral Mass seems to be on an upswing and there is excitement about the continuous improvement in the choir.
      - A sung Communion Rite has been introduced at the 11 AM Mass and will remain in place until it becomes familiar to the congregation. The Rite includes the singing of the Lord's Prayer, Embolism, and Doxology. The choir and cantors will return to singing the Opening Proper and Communion Proper during Lent.
  - Fr. Nick will be inviting individuals to participate in Holy Week services. Some minor changes will be introduced to enhance the appreciation of the liturgies.
  - An ambry (repository of the sacred oils) has been mounted near the baptistry. The funds to purchase the ambry were provided by the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality. It will be dedicated by its first use at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.
  - Via Crucis continues Fridays during Lent.
- Italian Festival
  - Planning is underway.
  - The Steering Committee will meet next Wednesday, 3/4.
- YAC
  - There is renewed energy in YAC with increased interest among parents, including running for officer positions for the coming year.
- Scouts Report
  - Elaine provided a written report, which she reviewed at the meeting. This report will be included as part of the meeting minutes.

- Sodality
  - Carol Ann provided a written report, which she reviewed at the meeting. The report will be included as part of the meeting minutes.
- St. Anthony in the Hills
  - No summer activities will be held at the facility this summer due to poor conditions on-site.
- Holy Name Society
  - Furio Casale reported that elections were recently held.
  - HNS has requested that Fr. Nick suggest projects that they might be able to support (on an ongoing issue).
    - Discussion ensued that the issues with need for repairs to sidewalks surrounding the parish property may be such a project.
- Old Business
  - None
- New Business
  - A new IT Coordinator, John McMillan, will be starting in late March. He most recently worked with the University of Delaware's Lerner College of Business.
- Announcements/Pastor's Comments
  - Fr. Nick asked for Pastoral Council input on names of potential attorneys to serve in a "pool" of volunteer attorneys to advise the parish on various issues.
- Closing Prayer
  - Fr. Mahoney offered the Closing Prayer.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, 3/24/2015**



## SCOUT UPDATE, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

### Boy Scouts

1. Merit Badge College: Troop 88 Boy Scouts attended Merit Badge College on January 10, a Saturday morning and afternoon series of classes designed to help Scouts earn Merit Badges (awards recognizing familiarity with various skills and topics). A second session of Merit Badge College takes place on February 28, 2015.
2. Klondike: Troop 88 Boy Scouts attended Klondike at Rodney Scout Reservation, a Boy Scout camp in Northern Maryland, on January 24-25, 2015. Cub Scouts were invited to stay over/visit for the day. "Klondike" involves a competition among different Boy Scouts troops involving various outdoor skills.
3. Troop 88 Fundraiser: Pack and Troop 88 held its annual pancake breakfast fundraiser on February 8.
4. Scout Sunday: On February 8 Pack and Troop 88 participated in Scout Sunday at St. Anthony's, an annual national event involving Church services across the country. Scout Sunday serves as a reminder of the 12<sup>th</sup> point of the Scout law, i.e., "A Scout is Reverent." In addition to presenting St. Anthony's with the Troop's and Pack's renewed charters from the Boy Scouts of America, the Troop and Pack recognized the long-term service of Ralph Hopkins, who until this year had served as the Cubmaster/Scoutmaster for over 20 years. Ralph was presented with the Brown Pelican award, which acknowledges the recipient's outstanding contribution to the spiritual development of the Catholic Youth in the program of the Boy Scouts of America. Ralph continues to serve as committee member for Troop 88.

In addition to the February 28 session of Merit Badge College, upcoming activities include the Troop and Pack Court of Honor (awards ceremony) on March 1; the Pinewood Derby race for Cub Scouts on March 15; and the annual Easter Break Camping trip (held the weekend after Easter). This year's trip is scheduled to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, operated by the National Park Service. This will be Troop 88's first trip to this location - past Easter trips have included visits to Gettysburg, Antietam, the Pine Barrens, the C&O Canal, Morristown National Historical Park (in NJ) and elsewhere.

### Girl Scouts

Girls Scouts are in the middle of cookies sales; they will be selling at the Parish Social this weekend! (With the weather being bad they had to cancel both weekends they were scheduled to sell at church).

