

**ST JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 18, 2011**

PARISH COMMISSION REPORTS

SCHOOL BOARD

- The School Board is looking into the possibility of establishing a Facebook page as a means of communication of school news.
- Commission members had several discussions about the recent state legislation actions regarding school choice and its effects on class size as well as admission requirements.
- In conjunction with other Mater Dei feeder schools, the school board sent postcards to families in our zip code are inviting families to visit our school and other Catholic schools.
- A very successful Come and See Night was held on February 3. Seventeen families came to tour the school and learn about the opportunities available at St. Joseph School.

OUTREACH COMMISSION

- The Vladivostok Subcommittee worked with several other groups in conducted a quilt raffle to support the ministry of Holy Mother of God Parish in Vladivostok.
- Conducted the “Sausage for the Homeless” Campaign that provided over 500 lbs of sausage to the Ozanam Family Shelter, the United Caring Shelter, the House of Bread and Peace and the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry.
- Are conducting the annual Diaper Derby to benefit Birthright
- Continuing to collect food each week for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry
- Several mission trips were taken to Haiti . Money, medical supplies and personnel were used to help confront the outbreak of cholera.
- Collected, boxed and shipped additional medical supplies and school supplies to the clinic in Plaine du Nord and to the school children of St. James.
- Continuing to work to find the best solution to providing safe water for drinking and cooking for the people of Plaine du Nord.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

- Continuing to monitor monthly income and expenses. Expenses are running close to budget. Collection income is up slightly over last year but still below budgeted needs.
- Conducted the annual Catholic Parishes Campaign. Parish goal is \$100,000. At this time we have reached about 98% of that goal. Average gift is up over last year but number of participants is down over last year at this point.
- Put together the budget for the new fiscal year. The fiscal year will be changed from a September 1 to August 31 fiscal year to a July 1 to June 31. The current fiscal year will be a ten month year to accommodate this change. Projected budget allows for a 2% increase in salaries, 10% increase in health insurance premiums and property and liability insurance premium and utility costs. Budget calls for a 2% increase in collection needs.
- St. Joe Cemetery Board held its annual meeting in January.
- Coordinated a very successful spring campus clean-up day.
- Several ongoing plumbing, roofing and electrical issues were taken care of.

- Several ceiling tiles in the cafeteria have fallen and need to be replaced.
- We are planning on installing a new door at the west entrance of the church. The Altar Society is entertaining the possibility of funding this project. Projected cost is around \$2,500.
- We are planning on installing new cabinets in the kitchen and new stainless steel countertops on the two islands in the kitchen. The Men's Club is entertaining the possibility of funding this project. Projected cost is \$7,000.
- We are planning to seal the exterior brick of the church sometime this summer.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMISSION

- Confirmation was held on Saturday, February 26th at the 5 p.m. Mass.
- Our REACH weekends were completed. While the number of students is down this year both in our parish and in the deanery, we continue to believe that REACH is the best way to provide religious education for our high school students. Accordingly we will continue to participate in the REACH program next year.
- Our Sunday morning family religion classes continue to go well.
- Serra Club Vocation Awareness program was offered again this year for our eight grade students. Winners were Paige Niemeier and Evan McDonald.
- First Communion was celebrated at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 1st.
- We continued with our "Live Simply" collections during Lent. This year we had presentations during Lent on the mission work of the Srs. of St. Francis from Oldenburg - Papua New Guinea and the Daughters of Charity - Africa. The sisters gave their presentations for the children at school and our Sunday morning religious education families. We have collected approximately \$650 through this effort which will be given to the Srs of St. Francis and the Daughters of Charity for their mission work.
- With the financial support of the PTO, Lenten materials for families were distributed before Ash Wednesday.
- The Sunday morning religious education program and Children's Liturgy of the Word will end on Sunday May 22nd. They will resume in August.
- Sunday morning "Growing in Grace" adult formation sessions were held from February into May. Our topics of discussion included World Religions, a tour of the church, other Christian religions, and what it means to be Catholic.
- Lent session with the Hands of Joy puppets for adults was held on Wednesday, March 2nd from 6-7:30 p.m. with a soup and bread supper.
- Little Black Books for Lent and Little White Books for Easter were available in church again this year.
- Bad Girls of the Bible book/bible discussion was held on 5 Wednesdays during Lent. 24 women registered. Sessions were held at St. Joe Inn. Received positive feedback/evaluation.
- Sharon attended the NCEA/NPCD (National Catholic Education Association/National association for Parish Catechetical Directors) Conference in New Orleans April 25-29.
- Next TEC Weekend is July30 - Aug. 1st. We have a couple of youth considering attending.
- Senior stories were published in the parish newsletter again this year.
- The diocesan youth team continues to meet. They are making plans for a September high school youth day. We continue to have youth as members of the diocesan youth team.

- The Evansville West Deanery Middle School Ski Trip went well!! The other half of the Deanery had two breaks.
- For a presence in the high school, West Deanery Youth Ministers baked chocolate chip cookies and distributed them at Mater Dei January 5th. On May Day, May 6th, the YMs handed out candy bars. We will be advertising the upcoming TEC weekends, National Catholic Youth Conference in November and the Diocesan Youth Day. We are talking about how often to do this and how to do it for our public schools.
- Saturday, April 16 Evansville West Deanery Middle School youth had a trip to the City Museum in St. Louis with Mass, supper and tour at Our Lady of the Snows on the way home. This was our first trip to this location. There were many small glitches, but the trip went very well. We took 48 middle school youth from the deanery parishes of St. Joseph, Corpus Christi and Holy Redeemer. Attendance was much less than we initially anticipated. We will review all of the details and make decisions for next year. . Deanery Middle School Youth trip to Holiday World has been set for Wednesday, July 20, 2011.
- Source and Summit (Eucharistic adoration based retreat) was held Friday/Saturday/Sunday, April 1-2-3, 2011. We had 4-5 youth from St. Joe attend.
- Vacation Bible School - PandaMania - to be held June 20-24, 2011 here at St. Joe with Resurrection, St. Francis & St Wendel. The Hands of Joy Puppet Team will be wrapping up the end of the year and kicking off VBS PandaMania with a performance for the parish on Sunday, May 22 at 9:15 a.m. in the meeting room.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

- **PTO:** To respond to the needs of parents regarding meeting opportunities, the PTO is reorganizing the way they will be conducting business. A committee of 5 parents, 1 teacher, and the principal will meet on an as-needed basis. Two meetings will be open to all school families to review finances and fundraisers. Classes were assigned fundraising events. Voting will be conducted via email or Red Folders. Candy Bars will not be a fundraiser next year. New aprons, towels, and oven mitts were purchased for the cooks. Teachers were gifted during Teacher Appreciation Week. The fall mum sale will go to the 8th grade class, as a fundraiser for their class trip. It was also voted to give \$10/per 8th grader to go toward graduation costs.
- **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE:** Plans are underway to refinish the gym floor this summer. They also want to replace the lights in the gym. Rich Harpenau will continue to run the 3rd & 4th grade basketball league. However, he will no longer run the concession stand. Under the leadership of the Athletic Committee, several secure storage rooms have been constructed on the mezzanine level of the storage building. Two controllers for the scoreboards were purchased.
- **MEN'S CLUB:** Continuing to meet for food and fellowship on a monthly basis. Conducted a spring sausage sale which provided over 500lbs of sausage for the homeless here in Evansville in addition to making another 1200lbs to sell to the public. Are now conducting a raffle to raise money. First prize is a Polaris Ranger (or \$8,000) Second prize is a Big Green Egg Cooker, Grill, Smoker. Drawing will be held in conjunction with the fall burgoo sale in October. Men's Club members were instrumental in providing help at the spring campus clean up day as well as the renovation of the convent/rectory.

- **KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN:** Continuing to meet for food and fellowship each month. Offered their help with the spring campus clean-up day as well as the renovation of the convent/rectory. Are having a barbecue sale in May.
- **ST. ANNE ALTAR SOCIETY:** Continuing to meet for food and fellowship each month. Conducted several kuchen sales as fundraisers. Held their annual spring dinner on May 12. For the past year, provided over \$8,000 for missalettes, vigil candles, altar bread and wine and other items used for Mass.
- **ST. JOE SENIOR CITIZENS:** Continuing to meet for food and fellowship each month

PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

NEW PARISH BUDGET

The Finance Committee has approved a budget for the next year. It calls for a 2% increase in salaries and allows for a 10% increase in medical insurance costs, property and liability insurance costs and utility costs and a 20% increase in employee pension costs. It calls for a 2% increase in collection needs. Current weekly collection need is 17,800. New year budget calls for a weekly average of \$18,300. We won't know the final figures for insurance costs until later this summer.

The Finance Committee has raised the tuition for school families from \$2,600 to \$2,700 for next year. We have not raised tuition for the past several years. There will be an equivalent \$100 raise in the amount charged to school families who are not members of our parish.

CPC UPDATE

Our parish goal this year is \$100,000. We have currently received pledges in the amount of \$101,000. There are still pledges coming. There will be a complete report in the bulletin and newsletter. Right now the average pledge is higher than last year, but the number of people who have returned their pledge cards is down slightly from last year.

PARISH DIRECTORY

The final proofs for the parish directory have been reviewed, corrections made and the final copy sent to the printers. We expect to receive the directories later this summer.

MAINTENANCE ITEMS

There are plans in the work to install a new door on the west side entrance of the church. Also to install new cabinets in the school kitchen and new stainless steel countertops on the two islands in the kitchen. There are also plans to seal the brick exterior of the church. We are also exploring the possibility of bypassing the sand filter of our water treatment plant. We are asking the state of Indiana for permission to do this. Bypassing the sand filter would eliminate a lot of maintenance concerns.

DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PLAN

Parishes and schools in the Diocese of Evansville are now beginning a period of self-assessment, the next stage in the strategic planning process. In an effort

to assess the parishes and schools in our diocese, you are being invited to complete a survey to help provide a clear picture of the strengths and areas that need improvement within the parishes and schools. You can complete the survey on the Internet at www.evansville-diocese.org, At some point there will be an opportunity for the leadership teams in each parish to also complete a parish self-assessment

RAISING THE ROOF CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Our Raising the Roof Campaign Goal was \$343,000. At the present time we have received pledges in excess of \$346,000. Our initial plan was to put a new roof on the school, pave several sections of the parking lot and seal and strip the entire parking lot, provide money for a new roof on the church and put \$100,000 in our parish endowment fund. We have accomplished the first three of these goals. The school roof has been installed and the parking lot has been paved, sealed and stripped. Along the way we encountered new things that had to be taken care of. The first of these was to tuck point several areas of the church and to put a new interior wall in the entrance of the church as part of the new front church door project. These projects cost about \$18,000. All told we spent a total of \$187,730.73 to cover these projects.

We have set money aside for a new roof on the church. Since we put a seamless roof on the convent/new rectory, we have discussed the possibility of putting the same kind of roof on the church. We believe that we can do this at a projected cost of \$60,000. At the present time we have \$143,000 in our building and loan fund

NEW RECTORY UPDATE

Work continues on the new rectory. New electrical and plumbing has been installed. New drywall has been installed throughout the house. The first coat of paint has been applied. The oak hardwood floors have been sanded and stained. We are now ready to install the new doors, window and door trim and baseboards. Two bathrooms and the back entryway will be tiled. Final electrical and plumbing remains to be done. We have some exterior work to complete as well—reworking the front sidewalk and install a new sidewalk from the back entrance of the house to the garage. Some landscaping work needs to be done around the front entrance to the convent. We have currently spent \$28,024.15 which included \$13,818 on the new roof.