

## **St. Teresa's Parish Council Minutes 5-24-06**

Present: Ed Buekers, Sheila Ernst, Ralph Handley, Elmer Ottney, Mary Ann Schneider for Holly Parzych, Jen Reichenberg, Jim Schneider, Sister Ruth Warejko, Msgr. Williamson and Barbara Burke. Absent: Pat Buczek, Maria Hayes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Chairman Barbara Burke. The Opening Prayer was led by Sister Ruth and Jim Schneider.

Minutes of the April 24, 2006 meeting were approved. Note takers are Sheila Ernst and Jen Reichenberg with Barb Burke preparing the minutes for the next meeting.

**Old Business: Constitution and By-Laws** Volunteer Sheet was passed around regarding a work session in August to draft a Constitution for the September meeting. Six people volunteered.

Discussion of **Ways to Welcome New Parishioners** was continued from last month's meeting: 1) Greeters and ushers will continue to greet parishioners before each Mass; 2) New Parishioners will be welcomed in the bulletin; 3) An invitation to join a Welcoming Committee will be drafted by Jen Reichenberg to be included in an upcoming bulletin. The nature of the welcoming activity will be determined by those interested.

### **Parish Ministries Available at St. Teresa's:**

- 1) **Women's Guild:** Mary Ann Schneider reviewed a list of activities and services provided to the parish including the Craft Show and A to Z Sale which are large fund raisers; Sale of religious items twice a year; Thanksgiving Baskets to needy families; Mitten Tree which provides mittens, scarves and hats to various charities; Christmas gifts for the Erie County Home residents; Christmas gifts for two selected needy families; Sale of precious feet/roses to promote pro-life activities; Harvest House Collection of clothing and baby items for needy new mothers; Poor Man's Supper on Ash Wednesday; Receptions for First Reconciliation and First Communion Students and their families; Reception for Confirmation Candidates and their families every two years; Easter Egg Hunt; Mother's Day Plant Sale; Selling Summer Raffle tickets for a quality handmade item donated by a parishioner; Sunshine Cards (300+) in the form of prayer cards sent to parishioners; Sandwiches made monthly for St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen; Maintaining the Pamphlet Rack; Bishop's Committee which provides a gift package to parents when a child is baptized; Monthly assistance at the Akron Newstead Food Pantry and assistance at other parish activities.

- 2) **Salt & Light Outreach Programs:** Sheila Ernst listed the following activities: Monthly Visitation with Cookies to the Erie County Home; Individual visitation to elderly parishioners if requested; Greeters before each Mass; Ministry of Praise which includes seniors, elderly and ill parishioners who pray for us; Parish Nurses monthly take blood pressures after Mass; Books for Tots Committee provides appropriate books for pre-schoolers; Parish Library with 1,000 volumes and videos; Volunteers for the Akron Newstead Food Pantry; Marriage Celebration for couples of 25+ years of marriage held every two years; Personal Care Collection for the Response of Love Center; Thanksgiving Flowering Plants delivered to Nursing Homes with a visit; Christmas Food Boxes for 2-3 families through Catholic Charities; Camp Prizes for Sister Rosemary Cauley's Faith & Caring Camp; Bereavement Committee assisted at Wake Services for parishioners; Assistance with Hearts and Hands Group financially and volunteers; Parish Stewardship Day outlining volunteer activities in the parish; Drafting the Parish Mission Statement which remains on the front cover of the bulletin.
- 3) **Knights of Columbus:** Ralph Handley provided an extensive outline of activities which can be undertaken by the Newstead/Clarence group of men. He sees many areas that the KC can interact with the two groups above. The Thanksgiving boxes were a joint project this year with the Women's Guild and Knights. Ralph has set up and updates the parish website. He now assists with the technical stage of mailing for the Ministry of Praise. The Knights of Columbus have earned Star Council Status by placing first at an upstate NY meeting with their newsletter, public relations and book sales. The Knights also sponsor a Seminarian and participate in Pro-Life activities.

**New Business:** Parish Picnic as an Outreach Activity: How can we make the picnic better? How can we reach out to new people? What would make it a more enjoyable event for parishioners? A brief discussion ensued which will be continued next month.

**Next Month:** Continuation of the **Parish Ministries** next month will include Educational/Sacramental—Sister Ruth Warejko, Liturgical—Msgr. Williamson, Financial—Ed Buekers, Ushers—Elmer Ottney.

**Next Month:** Chairman Burke requested that Msgr. Williamson give an update on the progress of the Akron/Clarence Cluster Group concerning our recommendations to the Northern Erie County Vicariate Council of the Buffalo Diocese.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at 7:15 pm.**

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