

St. Teresa's Parish Council Minutes 3-22-06

Present: Patrick Buczek, Ed Buekers, Sheila Ernst, Ralph Handley, Cindy (for daughter Maria) Hayes, Elmer Ottney, Holly Parzych, Jen Reichenberg, Jim Schneider, Sister Ruth Warejko, Msgr. Williamson and Barbara Burke. No one absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

Msgr. Williamson led the Opening Prayer Service with the assistance of Jim Schneider. Msgr. Williamson named Barbara Burke as Chairman. The Parish Council Members each gave short introductions. Minutes of this meeting will be prepared by Barbara Burke with the help of two note-takers: Jen Reichenberg and Sheila Ernst.

General Plans for the Parish Council were presented by Msgr. Williamson and Chairman Burke: Meetings will be held once a month from September to June and will last approximately one hour. The Parish Secretary will e-mail agendas before each meeting and minutes after each meeting. Members filled out a Parish Council Directory listing phone numbers and e-mail addresses. During the next few months a constitution and by-laws will be compiled. Members were asked to assist in searching the Internet for models of constitutions or covenants used by other parishes.

Diocesan Strategic Planning: Msgr. Williamson gave an overview of the process. St. Teresa's Parish is a member of a cluster of the Northern Erie County Vicariate of the Buffalo Diocese with Nativity, Our Lady of Peace, St. Augustine's and St. Mary's in Swormville. Last week each pastor submitted a profile of his parish. The second stage requires each parish to list their strengths and their weaknesses. Each member of our Parish Council submitted suggestions which will be given to our four representatives to the cluster: Msgr. Williamson, Barb Burke, Gary Cescon and Fran Dahill. Some parishioners have expressed concern over parish closings. At this time it is not anticipated that any parishes in our cluster will be closing. Members shared some suggestions for ways to make visitors and new parishioners feel more part of the parish family including a Welcoming Committee or sharing a simple meal after Mass. Programs carried on in one parish may be shared with other parishes in the future.

Profile of St. Teresa's Parish: Msgr. Williamson briefly explained the two-page profile of our parish which includes 18 objective indicators of a vibrant parish. Members of the Parish Council were given copies. This is the same document which was submitted to our cluster group. Chairman Burke indicated the need for a complete list of the ministries and programs available to parishioners at St. Teresa's. Many of our current programs are carried out with little publicity which limits participation.

Next meeting will be on **April 26, 2006** at 7:15 pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.