

Finance Council Minutes 10/08/09

Finance Council Members in Attendance – Fr. Jeff Fleming, Kevin Fredenberg, Al Pontrelli, Sara Streeter, Marilyn Ryan, Linda Zarko, Sue Monroe and John Tabaracci

The meeting was opened with a prayer offered by Fr. Jeff.

Living Stones - Fr. Jeff started the discussion concerning the Living Stones Program. There will be two series of meetings.

Meeting One will be held on October 18, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. and again on October 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Meeting One is intended to allow parishioners to consider the data from the Parish inventory and respond with questions about the data. Fr. Jeff solicited volunteers to serve as “table leaders” and “scribes” at Meeting One. Fr. Jeff will schedule the volunteers, and let everyone know.

Meeting Two will be held on November 8, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. and again on November 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. and is intended to begin the process of considering how the needs of the Diocese can be met with fewer priests and implement a plan to address this.

The Diocese expects to implement the plan at Easter.

Fr. Jeff also offered some detail from the Parish inventory – for fiscal year 2007-2008 23% of the parishioners gave no money to the Parish, 24% gave less than \$100, and 25% gave less than \$500.

Retreat - The discussion then turned to scheduling a retreat for the members of the Pastoral Council, Finance Council and Stewardship Council. Fr. Jeff anticipated that the retreat would occur on a Saturday and take between 4 and 6 hours. With the number of individuals involved, it is likely to be held at the Church to accommodate the number of people. The retreat is to focus on strengths/gifts and to build bridges between the members of the different Councils. Fr. Jeff will use www.doodle.com to schedule the retreat.

ACA - The Diocese advised Fr. Jeff that the ACA (f/k/a DOP) goal for the Parish this year was \$61,800, a \$7,500 increase over the Parish goal from 2008. The kick-off for ACA will be Sunday, October 11, 2009. Commitment Sunday will be the following week, October 18, 2009. Fr. Jeff indicated that the Diocese levied no penalties against parishes that didn't meet goal, but mentioned that other Dioceses did so. He also mentioned that the Parish receives roughly half of its ACA contribution back as a grant for Catholic Campus Ministry.

Finance/Budget - Linda provided current Profit and Loss Reports and a Capital Campaign Report. While last Sunday, October 4, 2009, had a strong attendance and good collection, for the fiscal year, which is now 27% over, offertory is at less than 21%. The Council discussed that fall is generally better than summer, not only in attendance but in offertory giving. The Council suggested seeing how the next few weeks go and if offertory doesn't pick up to alert the Parish, though announcements at mass and in the bulletin.

The idea was discussed of organizing a "Parish Offertory Program" where parishioner would be asked to make an offertory commitment. It was decided that this would not be the best time to do so, with the ACA commencing. Rather, the suggestion of doing this in advance of budgeting for the next fiscal year (i.e., in the spring) might be better and allow us to incorporate that into the Council's budget planning.

It was also suggested to promote the "auto-giving" by providing encouragement and automatic withdrawal registration forms in the bulletin.

Other Business - The Council finally discussed the best timing for a lunch honoring Dave Peterson. It was agreed that Thursdays were the best option.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

John Tabaracci
acting scribe