

## EPIPHANY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 9, 2010 – 8:30 – Meeting Room

**Members Present:** Robert Breitbach, Amy DeRaad, Mary Beth Ineson, Mike Kraft, Mike Lentz, Bob Mueffelman, Alan Savage, Tim Sullivan, Emey Vaillancourt, Fr. Zehren, Mary Zielinski

**Members Absent:** Steve Sorsen

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as written.

Mike Lentz began a discussion on the structure of the Parish Council. Following are the many points that were covered.

- ✓ A review of this type is necessary each year to insure that the current needs of the parish are being met. Father Zehren agrees with the thought of re-looking at the structure. Since his arrival in the parish, there have been changes made each year. He needs a vehicle to use as a sounding board for advice on where to go and how to handle certain issues. Change can be the result of growth and can insure the needs of the parish are kept in full view.
- ✓ Originally this meeting was very informal with the founding pastor. Eventually it became more of a visionary group that created systems to address parish needs.
- ✓ The Council now seems to be more of a reporting mechanism for the 7 Commissions. Some of the Commissions are wondering where they go next in their work and others see themselves as a necessary vehicle for hands-on parish work, such as Liturgy and Operations.
- ✓ Discernment needs to happen in each Commission as to its role and how best to serve the needs of the parish either in a visionary capacity or a hands-on type involvement. The wishes of the Archdiocese may determine certain Commission activity, such as with the Finance Commission. Some groups might need to be an adhoc committee that is in existence until the task is completed. Other groups might meet monthly or quarterly. Each group should be built individually based on the need.
- ✓ Some feel it would benefit our Pastor more if the Council spent quality time on the discussion of topics that will concern the parish in the future. They would involve creating focus questions to determine what exists, how it is working, did it meet its purpose or should it be re-defined and a new plan of implementation created.
- ✓ What should be the focus of the Council as a whole? What type of membership is necessary to implement its purpose?
- ✓ This review process should include the best use of our time and how to interest parishioners in becoming involved. Some people are comfortable in a discernment role and others find more reward in being gate keepers to insure proper coverage of parish needs.
- ✓ It is felt that it will be important to continue having a member of the Council as a liaison to any Commission. This will insure follow-through on issues as well as necessary information reaching the Pastor or the Council prior to any decision making.

- ✓ We want to be a body that is pro-active not re-active. We need to create something that is exciting and will cause involvement of people, as well as making parishioners feel empowered to help in the work of the Church.
- ✓ Some felt it is not necessary to have each Commission report at the Council meeting. A typed report can be submitted for inclusion in the minutes. This would free up Council time for discussion on future needs.
- ✓ This review should take place in the summer months as it will be difficult to pursue such a task during the school year when operational needs have to be met.
- ✓ Our Commissions were originally formed to accomplish a needed task. In some cases the task was accomplished and it was great. And now the question is "But now what"?
- ✓ In a few years, Epiphany Parish will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Maybe it is time to look at what and where we want to be at that time.
- ✓ One problem that exists in all structures is that 80% of the work is accomplished by 20% of the people. But it is important for all voices to be heard and all attempts made to include the whole and increase involvement.
- ✓ What is the purpose of the Executive Committee and the Council? Are either of them decision making bodies or are they a vehicle that the Pastor uses as a consulting unit. It would be helpful to define their roles.
- ✓ A meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee will be held on Feb. 26. If the Council has any additional feedback, please submit it to Mike or Amy prior to the meeting. They will review all of the statements made and recommend a possible structure for parish leadership that will meet the needs of Epiphany Parish. They will report back to Father Zehren and the Council at the March meeting.

Mike Lentz submitted a revised Fundraising policy to the Council. Mention of a Director of Stewardship and Script were removed as neither a Director or Script is part of the Parish at this time.

A discussion occurred on the language of making the Gala Event (a separate Silent Auction fundraiser) an institutional exemption. A concern was expressed as to the timing of this. Since this event has not been held yet, it was felt that making this exemption was pre-mature. It was decided to approve the changes on the Director and Scrip but hold off on the Gala exemption until after this event is held in 2011.

Because of the latest of the hour, the Chair recommended a postponement of the report on the 6 month Financial review until the March meeting. Amy also requested that the Commissions submit their report to her via e-mail and she would include them in the minutes of this meeting.

The next meeting of the Council will be on March 9.