

Parish Council Meeting
Parish of St. Martin de Porres
Thursday, 19th November A.D. 2009
7:30 – 9:00pm

Minutes

Opening Prayer was delivered by Msgr. Sullivan.

Greetings were delivered by Bill Kennedy, Council President.

Tentatively scheduled Parish Council Meetings for the Year 2010 follow —January 14th, February 11th, March 11th, and April 8th.

Ministry/Committee Chairmen Reports—

Parent/School Assoc. (PSA) Jim Casey reported on the strongly positive feedback he has received on the installation of *SmartBoards* in SMDP classrooms, which have enhanced our competitive edge. Regarding periodic school fundraising events, the recent pancake breakfast raised \$1,200; the next pancake breakfast is scheduled for January 24th. Christmas wrapping paper is expected to raise \$8,000. PSA has scheduled the **2010 SMDP Golf Classic** for Tuesday, June 1st.

Religious Education Janet McGuirk reported that the two Family Catechesis events hosted recently in the school s' auditorium were successful with future such events being planned; the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades completed sacramental Confession; Ellen Farina reported that the Parish had two classes that received the sacrament of Confirmation on October 23rd celebrated by Aux. Bsp. Dominick Lagonegro; a Youth Congress was held at Lourdes High School, Poughkeepsie with roughly 600 youths in attendance, and was graciously hosted by Abp. Timothy Dolan.

Children s Ministry Carolyn Iorio reported that the children s' ministry includes providing every Sunday a kids-friendly Mass guide (*Magnifikids*) and coloring page. The monthly *Magnificat* publisher offers this sound and attractive tool to assist children in their learning the Catholic faith. On December 6th the Knights of Columbus (SMDP Council) will host a Christmas craft fair with the theme of *St. Nicholas*.

Senior Center Val Brown reported on the vigor of the Center s' members and its activities. Its recent crafts fair was successful. The next scheduled field trip is December 3rd to the Mohegan Sun casino/resort, Pocono Mtns. The senior members' project of lovingly restoring the Nativity scene statues to their former glory continues.

Music Ministry Jacqueline Hourani reported that her children s', teenage, and adult choirs are rehearsing diligently for the upcoming Advent and Christmas liturgies. The school children are presenting the Nativity Play on Monday, Dec. 14th after the band performs at 7:00 p.m. in the school gym. The adult choir is singing for the Advent Contemplative Music Service on Thurs. Dec. 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in the church.

Health Care Ministry Doris Kennedy reported that there will be a Defibrillator class in the Nativity Center on January 5 at 7:00 PM.

Knights of Columbus Joe Cooper reported on the wonderful reception of Mrs. Kathleen Gallagher of the *NYS Catholic Conference* on Sunday, November 8th, at a breakfast co-hosted by the K of C. The Conference's mission is to raise NYS Catholic voters' awareness to fundamental life and death issues. All attendees –and Parishioners –are strongly encouraged to enroll online with the free *NYS Catholic Conference Alert*.

Prayer Group Mr. William Haag reported on the prayer exchange among the members, reminding all Catholics of the essential need for and power of earnest prayer. A Christmas party is forthcoming. The Committee echoes the need for us to enroll in the *NYS Catholic Conference Alert* and website.

Ecumenical Committee Anne Constantinople reported on the upcoming events planned for Advent in cooperation with a number of area ecclesial communities. These include the December 3rd Advent Service using Taize elements on at 7:30 p.m.; the Marist-sponsored Lessons & Carols on Saturday, December 5th at 3 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church, North Hamilton Ave., Poughkeepsie. We've tentatively scheduled for February 28th for Rabbi Polish's thoughtful lecture on the *Psalms as Prayer*.

Deacons Report Dcn. Frank reported that there are currently six people participating in the RCIA program; Dcn. Victor said that currently twelve people are participating in the bereavement group, which continues to meet regularly; Dcn. Pat regularly makes visits to the homebound.

Clergy Report Fr. Douglas Crawford reported on the training of new altar servers. Forty-two new servers joined the ranks. There are currently 105 servers in the Parish, drawn from both SMDP School and our Religious Education Program. Fr. Anthony Kemetse continues his Friday evening Scripture program, which has seen its participants grow to about thirty.

Pastor's Report Msgr. James Sullivan reported that the Parish Reconciliation Service is scheduled for Monday, December 21st, with Aux. Bsp. Dominic Lagonegro prayerfully presiding. Mr. David Nash is to be elevated to the order of Acolyte on Friday, November 20th at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie. Monsignor expressed our gratitude for Mr. Nash's answering God's call to serve the Church. The Parish Mission is scheduled for the weekend of March 14th, with Redemptorist priest, Fr. Daniel Francis directing.

Msgr. Sullivan concluded the Meeting with a prayer.