

Parish Council Meeting  
July 23, 2009

**Members Present:** Fr. Terry Bruce, Fr. Christian Malewski, Bob Reiter, Bill Egelhoff, Carolyn Sawyer, Jan Garnett, Beth Cressey, John Roseburrrough, Josh Brewster

**Members Absent:** Gary Vontz, Jennifer Prusa

**Recorder:** Beth Cressey

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm. Carolyn led the reflection and prayer. Last month's minutes were approved.

The Council discussed nominations of officers for this year and elected. Officers for this year are: Chair: Bob Reiter; Vice-Chair: Carolyn Sawyer; Secretary: Bill Egelhoff. These positions will be held for one year, with reelections in the summer.

**Welcoming Team Update:** A subcommittee was convened to discuss welcoming members & different groups within the parish & community. This ties in with Fr. Bauman's thoughts on welcoming & communicating with parish (see chart).

I. **New parishioners:**

A. 5 new members at this month's orientation.

B. Bill contacts new parishioners 2-3 times during their first year to see how they are, any questions, improvements, introduce them to a family to meet others, etc.

Bill asked if we should send our minutes within the School Board, Finance Committee, and Parish Council. There was much discussion on curbing gossip & uninformed comments and being transparent. It was decided that P.C. minutes will be posted on parish website. Beth will provide a report to the School Board on P.C. meetings & a report to P.C. on School Board meetings. Orientation was described by Bill, in which they talk about stewardship, fill out registrations, discuss ministry options, and tell background & personal stories.

C. Sept 13 is first Coffee & Donuts for new parishioners/school families, along with a "Yes I Can" drive & a Ministry Fair

D. Will begin introducing new parishioners 2x a year during Mass

E. RCIA for those wishing to convert to Catholicism; Bill calls all newly converted 2-3 times during their first year to touch base

II. **Our Own:**

A. Greeters (Knights are covering all Masses in August)

B. Ushers of different ages, sexes, etc.

C. We are addressing the sound system; some lectors do not get close enough to the microphone. Father said there is a workshop for lectors coming soon.

D. Discussion of buildings and grounds: John indicated he & Gary spoke about the need for signage to direct people around who do not know where certain areas like PMC are, but that there is not a lot of money in the budget for this or landscaping. There was much discussion on the sloppiness of the landscaping around the campus. This can possibly be a Yes I Can sign up. John suggested we have a person or group in charge

of coordinating so it is done correctly. Carolyn suggested the Knights could coordinate & have monthly groups to do the work.

**III. Inactive Parishioners:**

- A. Targeted for 2010 on plan, with a possible door-to-door census. There was discussion of another pictorial directory for the parish, as the last one is at least 5-6 years old & including email addresses in the directory.

**IV. Special Needs & Groups:**

- A. Friendship club is dwindling. How do we recruit/revive this group for seniors?

- B. Singles: how do we connect with all singles (S, D & W) of all ages?

Carolyn asked if there was a way to compile a list so we can figure out a way to sustain some of these groups for people. YAP's for 20 & 30-somethings; perhaps recruit people to coordinate others & pull them in for other single ministries. Bob suggested the Knights might be a good place to start for single men.

C. Bill shared that one goal they have is having a person come up to talk about their ministry after Mass, or having a booth set up in back of church to recruit people for different ministries & groups.

Bylaws were accepted, moved & adopted by the Council.

**New Business:**

I. Christ Renews His Parish: Bob indicated he received information from his brother-in-law who attends Cure of Ars about a retreat "Christ Renews His Parish" that Mgr. Tank is spearheading & is willing to come talk to us about it. \*See attached addendum, an article regarding this retreat\*

- A. Separate retreat for men & women over a weekend at the Church

- B. Twice a year to reenergize & revitalize parishioners

- C. Would need about 20-30 volunteers to run it

- D. Bob's brother in law could come talk to us informally re: ins/outs

E. Carolyn will talk to the Liturgy/Worship committee to see if there is interest in it & let us know.

II. We will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting for prayers/reflections for the upcoming year. Father will lead next month's prayer/reflection.

III. Our next meeting is 8/27/09; all subsequent meetings will be held the Fourth Thursday of the month, unless there is a conflict such as Thanksgiving which will be rescheduled.

**Tentative Agenda for Next Meeting:**

- I. Update for Liturgy/Worship committee (15 mins)

II. Fr. Bauman talk on organization of our ministries (each team should have their update on goals they are working on) Jennifer will be asked to coordinate a meeting on Evangelization & Communication (20 mins)

- III. Parish census (Bill will lead-10-15 mins)

- IV. New Business (30 mins)

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

## **0Addendum Regarding Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)**

### Christ Renews His Parish

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP, often pronounced Chirp) is a parish based retreat program. CRHP is a renewal process that is recommended by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Christ Renews His Parish first began at Holy Family parish in Parma, Ohio in 1969 as a weekend of renewal. CRHP has now been implemented in not only the United States but several other countries as well. Over 500,000 people have participated in a Christ Renews His Parish retreat weekend.

The weekend is about 30 hours long, generally running from 8 o'clock on Saturday morning until about 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon. During the CRHP weekend participants stay somewhere on parish property. Sometimes this might be at the parish center or, like at my parish, the classrooms of the parish school. By staying on parish grounds participants increase their bond of faith as a parish community.

CRHP weekends are gender specific and most parishes offering Christ Renews His Parish hold 4 renewal weekends per year – 2 for women and 2 for men.

Team members are lay people from the parish who have previously experienced a renewal weekend and who have felt called to continue with the spiritual formation process.

What happens on the retreat weekend?

The heart of the weekend includes several talks from team members who share their personal stories of faith with participants. There are also group activities, Scripture sharing and discussions on Christian living. The most important element is the opportunity each participant has to deepen his or her relationship with Jesus.

The atmosphere of a CRHP weekend is very relaxed and dress is casual. Meals and snacks are provided. Generally parish members, usually comprised of a team of those who have previously attended a CRHP retreat, prepare the meals.

There is a Reconciliation service, including the opportunity for participants to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And of course, Mass is celebrated during the renewal weekend.

## My Experience

I attended a CRHP retreat weekend in February 2008, and served on the formation team in September 2008. The retreat weekend was a wonderful experience that truly renewed and deepened my relationship with Jesus. Being part of the formation team was an amazing spiritual journey with a group of women I now consider my sisters.

If you have the opportunity to participate in a Christ Renews His Parish retreat, do! It is so worth it. And if you feel the call to continue, listen and respond with a "Yes!" You won't be disappointed. The weekend is amazing; continuing with the formation process is even more so.

## Bringing CRHP to Your Parish or Diocese

To implement Christ Renews His Parish contact a local parish that offers CRHP and invite their team members to hold a renewal weekend at your parish. If CRHP is not offered in your diocese or at a nearby parish, request more information from the CRHP national office:

Christ Renews His Parish  
P.O. Box 19100  
Cleveland, OH 44119

Phone: 216-731-7903

Peace in Christ,  
Melissa Knoblett-Aman