

St. Cecilia Church Parish and School Development (PSD) Committee Fall 2008 Town Hall Meeting

Date/Time of Meeting: Thursday, October 16, 2008. 7:00pm

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I. Agenda

1. Meeting Kickoff (Rob Lancia)

This is the third town hall meeting, resulting from parishioner feedback during initial phase of Parish Strategic Development process. Recognized all ministries present.

2. Prayer & Opening Remarks (Fr. Thomas Brosmer)

3. Finance committee update (Scott Campbell)

Parishioners will soon be receiving the annual fiscal year end figures in the mail.

2007 Fiscal Highlights – receipts were positive over previous year by about \$60K, mostly due to increase in Bingo receipts this year. What stands out overall is the amount of money it takes just to operate our church. Currently Bingo is a necessity due to the money it brings in, but we are always looking at ways we can replace this income. That is a future goal, but currently we rely on this income, and could use additional volunteers to keep this viable.

Without Bingo income, we would quickly deplete our reserves – which are kept within the diocese. School tuition has increased over the last few years, but income from that is just under \$670 K, and salaries and benefits alone to run the school (which are negotiated at the Diocesan level) is over \$930 K. As parishioners we need to continue to tithe and support the church in any way we can. The 2008 Festival was very successful and profited about \$47 K. Finance committee is looking into ways we could profit from the land we purchased. The debt on this land is close to being paid off, and when that is accomplished we will no longer be carrying any debt as a parish.

4. PSD: Spotlight on Communications Team (Bev Oddi & Marcy Gifford)

Introduced communications team – first goal was an update of the parish website and second was an update to the News from the pews. Communication group is working on documenting a communication process for all communication vehicles at St Cecilia to make sure everything is up to date and relevant.

Parish website – has about 800 to 1,000 visitors per month (peaked in Aug 2008 at over 1400!). Most visited pages in order from highest to lower– General Info, Preschool, Religious Education, Groups, Staff Directory, Forms, Bulletin, and News from the Pews. Reviewed many of the website pages – any updates for group/ministry pages can be sent directly to Marcy. Deadlines for submitting info to bulletins and news from the pews will be added to website soon, as will TRIP program gift certificates. Any website suggestions can be sent to Marcy as well.

News from the Pews – updated look & feel will start coming out in December. Kyle is the editor of this newsletter, and all articles and updates can be sent to her.

Question –

1). Have we considered allowing folks to opt-out of receiving paper copy of news from the pews to save expenses? Yes – that is a future goal.

2). Any thought to utilizing an email group for alter servers similar to what is used for Extraordinary ministers and lectors? We could look at this in the future – and may be able to utilize the website for this as well.

5. TRIP Program (Kim Jackson)

Five \$5 Kroger re-loadable gift cards are being raffled tonight as door prizes!!

TRIP program is being rolled out to the entire parish, expanding beyond the school and PSR program. Last year school and PSR families earned over \$35,000 in free tuition. This is a fabulous opportunity for the parish to earn money – and does not cost any additional money, just utilizes money parishioners are already spending for groceries, restaurants, etc. Utilizing gift cards, such as Bob Evans, purchased from the parish, earns the parish %10. Kroger's re-loadable gift card, which can be used repeatedly, earns the parish 5%. If we had 200 parish families spend \$200 per week at Kroger's for 1 year, it would equal \$104,000 for the parish (which parishioners are spending anyway). It's free money for the parish, with just a little extra effort!! Each parishioner can also decide where the money goes – school family, parish general fund, garden club, bereavement committee, etc.

Very soon we will be selling gift certificates and gift cards after every mass, but we need volunteers to work 1 mass per month. Kim will provide training and it will take about ½ hour after mass.

Questions & Comments:

- 1) Are we looking to expand to any additional vendors? For now we have chosen to provide most popular vendors (local restaurants, Kroger, etc.) If we get demand for additional vendors we can add them.
- 2). Can we use credit card for gift certificates? No, we need cash or check for gift certificates, but utilizing the Kroger re-loadable card, you can use a credit card to load their card, and purchase gift cards there.
- 3). How can you find out how much profit you have made? For the school we send out statements every two weeks. For now – for parishioners, they can contact Kim Jackson for an update.
- 4). Are we selling the gift certificates tonight? Yes!!!
- 5). Can we change who money is designated for after the initial choice? Yes – just contact Kim Jackson.
- 5). An idea from a parishioner - Use gift cards purchased through TRIP for Christmas gifts, including companies who purchase gift cards for employees.
- 6). Many parishioners contributed ways they have used Kroger gift cards – including distributing to friends and family members.

6. Religious Education (Kathy Maggied)

Religious Education Program (PSR) – 157 families enrolled with over 250 students. Meet Sunday and Monday – 18 lead teachers and 18 aides. Five teachers have full religious ed certification, and many are working towards it. Our Catechists receive stipends per level of certification. Sacramental programs involve parish and school students – we have 42 students preparing for first communion and 40 confirmation candidates. We hold joint parent meetings and retreats for the students.

Children's Liturgy of the Word – Liturgy of the word for children. This follows the same format as the normal mass (penitential rite, 1st reading, responsorial and gospel) so that it mirrors what occurs within the main church. We have been utilizing the older children to read the 1st reading to their peers. The children are given an opportunity to offer their own petitions. There is a lead and an aide for each session, and are in need of additional volunteers. Training for Children's Liturgy will be held Thursday Nov 18th at 7 PM.

Pre-Cana Program – Also a sacramental preparation program. We have 8 couples here at St. Cecilia part of this ministry, and last year started couple mentoring format which allows engaged couple to work 1:1 with pre-cana couples, discussing 5 topics: decision making, families of origin, communication, spirituality & sacramentality within marriage and intimacy. Our pre-cana couples have also prepared & presented day long programs here at St. Cecilia for engaged couples wishing to participate in this way.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for any of these programs – please contact Kathy Maggied.

7. Featured Speaker (Warren Wright)

8. General Q&A (moderator: Rob Lancia)

Highlighted Michelle Spohn, Parish Council President – as the liaison group between parishioners and the pastor.

1). Question for Mrs. Moretti regarding technology updates to the school website – there have been updates to the school website this year, and work closely with the PSD Communications committee. We recently purchased a back up sever for the school, due to a grant, and are also talking about utilizing 'virtual' desktops. Friday newsletter continues to be distributed electronically, and teachers are utilizing their classroom pages.

2). For Mrs. Moretti – what are the # of school families & children at St. Cecilia school? 145 families and 195 students as of this week. We are down in enrollment, as are many Catholic schools in the Diocese.

3). Can groups add pictures on their page on the website – yes, just e-mail to Marcy.

4). When will the parish directory be coming out? Hopefully December – may be pushed back to January.

9. Meeting Wrap-up (Rob Lancia)

Thanked Outreach committee for putting together meeting and Julie Beatty for preparing signs to advertise this event.

Encouraged suggestions and input for future meetings.

Craft Show for St. Cecilia is coming up this Saturday.

Drawings for door prizes

10. Closing Remarks and Prayer (Fr. Thomas Brosmer)