

**St. Bernadette Parish**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**October 26, 2008**

The annual meeting and chili cook-off opened with prayer. Dave Sier, Chair of the Parish Council facilitated. Other members of the Parish Council, Finance Council and other parish committees attended as well as parish members. Approximate in attendance is 65.

**Parish Report:** Patty Eichhorst prepared the Parish Report covering July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. A number of noteworthy items are included in this report. Patty specifically noted:

- Compiled Sacramental Information
- Financial Information for the parish
- Parish Picnic financials for this past year and the year prior to that.

**Finance Council:** Louie Wendt discussed the state of financials in the parish.

At this point, things are going very well.

- Net profit of \$26,027 for the year.
- Continue to pay down the debt.
- Met the Bishops Appeal again for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row.
- New Children's Stewardship Program was implemented.
- A Parish Wish List was put in place and as a result, we received donations totaling \$18,476 towards building and grounds projects.

The challenges we face going forward:

- 50 & Free transition to Advancing the Mission.
- Improve our Volunteerism.
- Be 100% Debt Free by year end.

**Picnic Steering Committee:** Chris Sheptoski discussed the results of the Parish Picnic in lieu of Tim Delain who was unable to attend.

- Looking at the financial reports, the results of the picnic was very positive.
- The rummage sale continues to be the biggest money maker of the event.
- The other activities of the picnic were successful, but generally under staffed.
- A resounding concern voiced was the lack of games and activities for the kids. Next year, this will be an area of improvement. We have 3 people to chair this area for next year, Janet Wagner, Cari Zelinski, and Charlie Mares.
- The Picnic Steering Committee meets monthly on Wednesday nights. We are always looking for more people to get involved and welcome anyone to bring forth their time and ideas.

**50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Planning:** Christine Mazier was introduced as the chairperson for the 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee.

- In September 2010, the parish will celebrate 50 years of faith and service.
- An in-pew survey was distributed a few weeks ago to generate interest and to recruit volunteers.
- There will be 6 sub-committees to plan the celebration:
  - An anniversary mass to celebrate with the Bishop and retired clergy who have been involved in the parish in the past, followed by a cake and coffee reception.
  - A historic booklet will be produced to commemorate the event.
  - A new parish directory will be produced.
  - We will plan a youth event(s). – We still need leadership in this area.
  - Advertising and Displays including the development of a logo.
- The end result of the time and effort devoted to this celebration of our parish will bring our parish members closer together and build a stronger parish.

**Ten Commandments Monument:** It was noted that special recognition of the efforts of the Knights of Columbus should be made concerning the establishment of the Ten Commandments Monument in front of the church. This is a wonderful addition to the church.

**Human Concerns Committee:** Janette Vanevenhoven discussed the areas this committee serves. Every month they have at least one project they are working on:

- Respect for Life
- LEAVEN
- Fox Valley Warming Shelter (which has no permanent location)
- Blood Drive
- Thanksgiving Food Baskets
- Salvation Army – this year they are looking especially for gifts for teens.
- Ongoing Giving Box – Looking for items for St. Joe’s Food Pantry, Eyeglass collection, Yarn collection for the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Items for the Military.

**Liturgy Committee:** Pat Vander Weilen talked about this committee noting that Father Don is the main leader of this committee.

- This year they tried the Eucharistic Adoration Day. This was well received and they are now discussing adding more of these going forward. Perhaps monthly or quarterly.
- They are also entertaining a Retreat or Mission with speakers
- They also are looking to contact the diocese to get additional ideas for improvement.

**Mission Committee:** Carolyn Cox began by saying Thank You to the parish for being so generous over the past years. The special collections for the Missions have always done very well. These are the areas that were served over the past year:

- Diocese sponsored Dominican Republic is the main focus.
- Also sponsored a Girls School in Bolivia
- Neopit, WI Indian missionary.
- Coming up will be the Bethlehem Crafts sale on Nov 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Nancy Madden noted that there are three areas that we need to recognize in our parish that need some focus:

1. We used to have an Elizabeth Ministry and no longer have that.
2. There is a lack of outreach for our singles ages 18 – 30.
3. We need a Seniors group, set up lunches and dinners for our seniors.

**Father Donald Zuleger:** Father Don noted that our parish has continued to make great strides in building a stronger parish. We are doing much better financially and we have had some growth in connecting our parish members.

- We are heading into Advancing the Mission (ATM). The diocese allowed us to wait until the last wave because we had just started our debt elimination campaign right before they began the Advancing the Mission campaign.
- The ATM campaign focuses on prayer, service and funds.
- This campaign will overlap a bit with completing our 50 and free campaign, as we need to continue until we truly are debt free.
- Father thanked all contestants in the Chili cook-off, as well as all the contributors of the desserts. It was noted that next year we should also vote for the best dessert as well as the best chili.
- Father thanked Patty Eichhorst for preparing the Annual Parish Report.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Mazier*