

**St. Bridget Parish Council**  
**Thursday, March 4, 2010**

Call to order by President Andrea McCormick was made at 7:08.

Opening prayer was led by Marnell Stover.

**Roll Call:** In Attendance: Fr. Francis Fador, Deacon Stephen Beecher, Marnell Stover, Rick Stover, Andrea McCormick, Mark Hampson, Mary Ellen Harmon, Rosemarie Frick, Doug Landy, Pat Beecher, Pat Conroy, Rose Frith, Louise Riley  
Not in Attendance: Gerry Cunningham, Audrey Cunningham

A motion to accept the Feb. minutes as written was made by Doug, seconded by Rose, and passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**Religious Education** – Marnell reported that the students in the confirmation class wrote the lyrics for two songs recently with Michael Brown. They would like to perform the songs and will do so on Palm Sunday at both churches.

The religious education students will be involved in a mass on Mother's Day in celebration of Mary. There will be a crowning of Mary and they will help with the readings.

**Liturgy** – Rosemarie explained how the church was readied for Lent with thorns and a fir tree and the sign Instead Of... on the cross. A plaque was hung on the back wall of the church noting the new outdoor crèche and figurines and the donations. Paul Frick made a small wooden shelf which was hung underneath the statue of Mary to place a white rose between the thorns.

**Planning & Development** – Pat C. gave the PC information about the five stained glass window contractors and their bids for repair or restoration. Her committee has made their recommendation to Fr. Fador. The work ranges from approximately \$1,600 to \$4,000 per window with a variety of commitments and payments from each company.

A tentative programming schedule celebrating the history of St. Bridget Church was presented with some activities at St. Bridget and others at The Cornwall Historical Society.

**Hospitality** – While Audrey was not at the meeting, she and Gerry sent an updated calendar of possible events for this year.

**Spiritual Life** – Fr. Fador made a power point presentation based on an article in Priest magazine. The article is called What Has Become the Power of the Cross? and the meaning

of the cross was discussed, with PC members giving personal reflections. It is the blueprint of our life even though it is difficult to embrace.

Deacon Stephen Beecher spoke to the PC about Small Christian Communities, which are small groups that meet in people's homes to talk about and study scripture, ask questions, make bonds. Stephen will start this as a ministry and the PC watched a short DVD by Br. Bob Moriarity on this topic at the end of the meeting. After the showing the PC unanimously gave Stephen a vote of support.

Dates will be coming soon as to the reconciliation evening at St. Bridget church.

**Communication** – Mel reported that the email list for the parish is up and running thanks to the help of Rose Frith. The first email was sent regarding the Social Action Committee's speaker from the Housatonic Youth Bureau Services after the 8:30 mass on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Some of the email addresses came back as incorrect so she would like help as to getting them corrected. Her name and phone number will be added to the church website so approved messages and information can be posted there.

**Social Action** – Louise met with Jill Gibbons after the SAC meeting of Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. That is how Jill and her supervisor came to be scheduled to give an informal presentation at St. Bridget Church.

Religious Education students made 83 valentines for Sharon Health Care Center under the guidance of Cheryl Arnold. Plans to make napkin rings that look like bunnies are in the works for Easter and will be given to Sharon Health care Center.

Louise has not heard more from the specific agencies she contacted about Haiti, but thought we might support local events raising funds for Haiti. One such is the Cornwall Consolidated School pancake breakfast to benefit Devon Root who is a nurse working in a hospital in Haiti. The breakfast is on March 14 and perhaps that information could go in the church bulletin.

**Pastor's Report** – Father used his computer to show the PC a power point on perception.

**Old Business** – covered under other reports.

The PC then watched the DVD called Making a Difference in Each Other's Lives and Faith, which has participants in small Christian communities giving their opinions about belonging to one and how it benefits them and could enrich anyone.

Closing Prayer was led by Louise.

A motion to adjourn at 9:02 was made by Rose, seconded by Pat C. and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ellen Harmon