

**Parish Council meeting minutes  
March 9, 2009**

Present: J.P. Gallagher, Craig Knapp, Kelley Thornton, Fr. Ramil, Michael Zink, Ann Domenella, Kim Dahlborn, Lizzy Hunt, David Hoese, Julie Lepri, Jim Lentz, John Huston, Kathy Moore, Fr. Simpson

Pastor's Report:

- There was a lot of follow-up discussion about the success of the Parish Day of Prayer. It was an extremely positive experience, and well-attended.
- The St. Clement bulletin announcement for the The Catholic Conference of Illinois' "Catholics in the Capitol" day caused some pain for some parishioners because its agenda was perceived as being anti-gay. Fr. Simpson has been reassuring parishioners that St. Clement continues to be an inclusive community.
- School: There were not as many applicants for pre-K this year. Requests for tuition assistance will be greater. St. Clement 8<sup>th</sup> graders were once again accepted at the schools of their choice.
- Fr. Simpson reported problems with the roof leaking and the costliness of repairs.
- 7:00 Sunday Mass is highly successful as demonstrated by the large crowd there each week.
- Fr. Ramil will leave his duties at St. Clement next year to study for an advanced degree in Theology.

Leadership Action Committee

The committee debated whether to reconvene the Leadership Team before summer. They cited the need to pose a couple of guiding questions to focus on, such as: Are our activities anchored in faith formation? How can we use technology to support these activities? It was decided to convene a meeting in May at which each group would report on what they are already doing in the area of faith formation and what goals they might set for next year. Julie noted the importance of building networks between groups so they might share information on faith-sharing. Even groups whose work is not by their natures oriented toward faith-formation, can be made more aware of how it can become a focus of their work. Perhaps there could be a theme for all groups to focus on.

Religious Education: Staffing transitions have caused some weakness in the program.

There seems to be a loss of momentum.

School Board: report attached to minutes.

Finance: The council approved a budget with a 20% programmatic reduction. Salaries will remain stable. There is also a "rainy day" fund to be used if necessary.

**May reflection: Craig**

**Refreshments: David**