

Holy Rosary School Parents Club Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2006

Becky Calkins welcomed everyone and Jillian Kane led the opening prayer. The minutes of the February 16th, 2006 Parents Club meeting were approved as written.

President's Report – Becky Calkins

There is no childcare this evening. We can't have children in the halls un-supervised. We are still looking for someone to take over the childcare for these meetings. If you are interested in double hours, please contact Becky or Jill. If there are no volunteers, we will not have childcare at our next meeting.

Vice-President's Report – Jill Fulmore

The Finance Council met to discuss the budget. The budget presentation to Parents Club will include a review of the 2004-2005 budget. There was a special meeting of the School Commission on March 13, 2006 and Kris will report on that meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Sally Hasert

The report for February was distributed. No questions were asked. Please note that the Teacher's Lounge fund had a negative balance. Funds were transferred from last year's Father-Daughter Glow Bowl to cover the shortfall. A recap of the Parents Club fundraisers was included with the report. This report was prepared at the request of the School Commission. Although it is not complete at this time, we are working on bringing it up to date. Any information, including historical information relating to events you worked on previously, would be greatly appreciated.

Principal's Report – Kris Brown

Kris welcomed members of School Commission and Patrick Barredo.

Thank you for supporting our Lenten activities. The men at St. Martin de Porres are grateful for the lunches and toiletry items. For their service project, the 8th graders have chose to support Katherine's Place. Profits from their Family Movie Night, March 25th, will be used to lay concrete for a play area. The goal is to raise \$1,000. Any in-kind donations would be greatly appreciated.

2 weeks from today the April calendars will go home. Please review and post. It's a very busy time of year. April 3 is group picture day, which means perfect uniform. May 6 is the date the Archdiocese is going to celebrate 150 years of Catholic education. All schools will have displays/entertainment and HR's contribution will be the 6th grade wax museum. The celebration will be from 9am – 4pm at Fisher Plaza. Governor Gregoire, Senator Cantwell and Mayor Nickels will be in attendance.

There will be a town hall meeting on Tuesday evening, March 21st at 7:00 pm where five representatives of the Archdiocese will be here to answer questions from our community.

There were approximately 60 applicants for next year's kindergarten class. Newly accepted kindergartners will be called on Monday, March 20. We will have 52 new students and a waiting list.

Vice Principal's Report – Pam Sturgeon

No report.

Standing Committee Reports

Auction – Regina Schulz and Cely Sassonoff reported that Mr. Shrek's class was the first to 100% participation in procurement and therefore win the bowling party. Mr. Richter's class was 2nd and wins a taco party. The race for 3rd place is still up in the air. Procurement forms are in the office. The preferred method to identify procured items is through the website. Invitations for the auction will go out next week and it is first come, first served. There are lots of volunteer jobs available, including the co-chair positions.

Program Presentation – No scheduled presentation.

Special Guests: Patrick Barredo and Tricia McLean.

Patrick thanked Kris for her friendship, support and leadership during this difficult week. Fr. Magnano asked Patrick to tell us all that he is praying for our community. Fr. Magnano will be here at the meeting on Tuesday evening.

A copy of the March 11, 2006 letter from Archbishop Brunett that was read to our parish last weekend will be in the bulletin this coming weekend. The backside of the letter will contain a statement regarding Fr. Sarkies' resignation. The statement is in response to some of the questions the archdiocese has received.

Patrick spoke with Fr. Eblen earlier in the day and Fr. Eblen told him he was struggling with his homily for this weekend. Fr. Eblen was in the seminary with Fr. Sarkies. Fr. Don Perea has been at morning mass and wants us to know he is here to support our parish and school. The parish staff is available for you.

Tricia McLean spoke on behalf of the School Commission. The SC knows we are all seeking answers. We know that the allegation made against Fr. Sarkies was not for an illegal activity nor did it involve children. We need to be respectful of the process of the archdiocese. Please also be sensitive in your discussions of the situations.

The rest of the meeting consisted of comments from those in attendance. A recap of those comments is provided separately.

Next Parents Club Meeting: April date to be determined - please watch the FCE
Hospitality begins at 6:15; meeting begins at 6:30. Childcare will be available in the library for \$1.00/child, **provided there is a volunteer available.**

Gloria M. Teves
Secretary

Comments Regarding Fr. Sarkies' Resignation
From Those Attending the March 16, 2006 Parents Club Meeting

- How do we answer questions from folks that are outside of our parish? Kris Brown responded by telling us that she tells people that she can't comment on the investigation, as she doesn't know any details. She refers all questions to the Chancery. As a friend of Fr. Sarkies, she tells people that she holds him in high regard and has nothing further to say.
- Kris visited the 6th graders and told them that Fr. misses them and prays for them and is sorry he can't say goodbye. Sometimes we don't know all the answers. Sometimes people fill in the blanks and that is how rumors get started. We probably won't know all the facts and we shouldn't know all the facts. We have to respect that. We also have to know that the parish is bigger than one person.
- Fr. Sarkies used to say that an effective leader is one where things will go on when that person is gone.
- How can we get in touch with Fr. Sarkies? His email account at HR has been inundated. A Hotmail account has been set up for him and messages are being forwarded. Letters can be brought to the rectory or write to him at the Chancery office at the address in the FCE.
- Disappointment was expressed that a letter from the school didn't go home on Monday.
- Kris said that Leigh Stringfellow came to the school early Monday morning to meet with the teachers. Ms. Stringfellow suggested that the teachers handle the discussion in their classroom. Kris had to get special permission to visit each of the classrooms to talk about the situation.
- There were discussions with the Archdiocese about further communication to the parish and school community. The school administration is operating under the direction of the Archdiocese. Many discussions were held regarding the letter that the School Commission sent home on Thursday. The letter was reviewed by the archdiocese in advance of its publication.
- Patrick Barredo said that he works with Fr. Magnano and Ms. Stringfellow and they continue to hold Fr. Sarkies in high regard. Both of them worked for Fr. Sarkies at one time. To know that they are being looked at for guidance makes it even more difficult for them. Please remember that some of the folks at the Archdiocese don't know what happened.
- Kris and Patrick don't know what happened.
- There will be a one-page information sheet in the bulletin this weekend that attempts to fill in the blanks for us. Please review it and come to the meeting on Tuesday evening and express your concerns about the process.
- Kris and Patrick are in a delicate situation in that they are employed by the Archdiocese and support Fr. Sarkies.

- The Archdiocese is concerned about the meeting on Tuesday as they have heard from many people here at Holy Rosary. There will be many questions and concerns and it will be necessary for us all to behave appropriately.
- Patrick noted that with respect to misconduct allegations, the steps that have been taken here have been in line with archdiocesan policy. The punishment seems harsh, but it is in line with policy.
- Fr. Sarkies is officially recognized as a retired priest. He has a compliance officer that is assigned to him and Fr. is checking in with him each day.
- Fr. Sarkies is a man of many talents and there is no doubt he will use those talents in his retirement. Maybe he will write a book. He has told Kris that he is at peace.
- Will the meeting on Tuesday be recorded in any way? No.
- There are three attorneys on School Commission and each one is going crazy over this event. The church doesn't have the same civil rules as we are used to.
- A little coaching tip in preparation of the meeting: be respectful in how your concerns are presented to the archdiocesan representatives. We will be judged by our demeanor.
- Letters are appropriate. We might be able to support change. What happened here will not change, but should it happen at another parish, we might be able to help the Archdiocese learn what NOT to do next time.
- Fr. would want us to be at mass this Sunday.
- A blog has been started for those who want to post their thoughts and comments on line.
- There was someone who felt wronged enough to make a complaint. They deserve our prayers too.
- Disappointed in all the gossip.
- We are worried about Kris and hope that her new boss is someone she wants to work for. We don't want to end up losing her too.
- On July 1, our new pastor starts. Whoever this new pastor is, he needs to be embraced by our community. Hopefully we will learn to love him as much as we love Fr. Sarkies.
- The Archbishop loves his priests. He wouldn't do something to purposely hurt one of them. Fr. Sarkies wrote for Archbishop Brunett. One of those writings included the policies Fr. Sarkies is now accused of violating. Fr. Sarkies was highly regarded by the Archbishop.
- We need to trust that it was all done in the right way.
- Our faith is mystery. Jesus' death looked like the end, but that's when it all turned around.

- There was a large response to the survey regarding our masses. There were lots of negative responses directed to our pastor. A few of those responses were put through the shredder because they were too unkind. Fr. Sarkies felt the dwindling attendance at mass and was always asking, “What can we do?”
- Fr. now knows how much he was loved.
- Copies of the Holy Rosary bulletin will be at Our Lady of Guadalupe this weekend for the Youth and Family mass.
- Thank you, Kris, for talking to our classes. The children got a lot out of her discussion with them.