

PTO MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 14, 2010

Father Alex and Sister Corinne weren't able to attend so there was no opening prayer and no closing prayer.

Treasurer's Report- It was handed out at the meeting and accepted. The report included April 2009 treasurer's report on the reverse side. It was explained that the difference from last year's report to this month's was that this year the Cookie Dough fundraiser was held later so it is not included in this month's report.

Secretary's Report- It is available online and it was accepted.

Parish Council Report- Dora Courchesne- This year's Confirmation for the CCD students has been changed to Holy Cross because it was felt that Mater Dolorosa could not accommodate the expected crowd of 1,000 people. It was reiterated that there will not be any tuition increase for the coming school year. The Winter Bazaar banked over \$34,000.00 before expenses were paid out. There will be a Spring Food Drive for the next 2 weekends in the Parish for the benefit of Margaret's Pantry. Donations of nonperishable foods can be dropped in the back of the Church before or after the masses. Father Alex suggested that a condolence letter be sent to the family of Conor Reynolds, the high school student who was recently killed at a teen hangout in Springfield.

School Board Report- Bethaney Healy- Father Alex and Sister Corinne weren't in attendance so there was no financial report. The St. Patrick's Day Road Race brought in just over \$2,000.00. This money will be divided with 10 % going to the Endowment Fund and the rest going to the operating budget of the school. It was suggested that next year we ask for at least a \$10.00 donation for each car. It was also suggested that next year a number of parking spaces be set aside to be available for reservation by the out of town runners for a fee of \$25.00. That way they don't have to arrive so early the day of the race if they already have a parking space. The incoming President of the Parade Committee has already spoken with Bethaney about possibly purchasing the parking lot for the race next year. The Parade itself went well with about 60 marchers representing Mater Dolorosa Parish. Father Alex and Sister Corinne participated and a special thank you to the Glasheens for the use of their car. The Annual Fund is up to \$12,065.00 with about \$1,200.00 going to the Endowment Fund. Parents at the PTO meeting had some questions about the merger with Holy Cross and how it would effect the school budget and tuition rates. Bethaney will email Father Alex about possibly setting up another school family meeting to answer questions regarding the impending merger.

Old Business:

Book Fair-Kara reported that \$4,200.00 of books were sold means we have about \$900.00 in cash profit. Kara is taking care of using these monies to purchase items needed by teachers and the school. Resource books on using the white boards, instruction books for math and writing, library books for all reading levels and wish list items for teachers are just some of the purchases Kara will be making.

Easter Egg Hunt- It was held outside in the grotto. The children wasted no time in finding all the eggs and some even brought their own baskets or decorated bags to keep their treats in. The older grades got candy treats as well.

Cookie Dough Fundraiser- We sold \$7,500.00 this year, a substantial drop from the \$10,000.00 that sold last year. Hopefully the delivery will be in about 3 weeks just before Mother's Day. Our profit from this will amount to 40% of the total sales. Thank you to all who sold and/or purchased even 1 box of dough. Ever little bit helps, and if ALL of

us help just a little, the burden wouldn't be so great for the same FEW who seem to always be part of each event or fundraiser.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon- This will be on May 6th, with volunteers being needed from 11 a.m. until about 1 p.m. Our teachers deserve a break, don't you think? Come on, lend a hand. You have two you know!!

New Business:

End of Year Barbeque- This will be on Friday, June 11th for the 1st through 7th grades and as usual, we need volunteers to set up, serve the students and help clean up. Kara will have more detailed information at the next PTO meeting next month.

Teacher requests for the following were accepted by those attending the meeting.

- a replacement DVD/VCR player and money for a bus for a field trip for Mrs. Krow's preschool
- money for a bus for a field trip for the 2 kindergarten classes to visit sites in Holyoke, like the police station, the fire station, the post office and city hall
- an easel to hold large books for Mrs. Fedora's kindergarten class

As mentioned during the previous PTO meeting, several items were being considered for purchase for the school with money from the PTO account. If there is enough money in our account and these items get approval from Sister Corinne, then those attending this meeting agreed that the items should be purchased.

Officer Elections- Kara passed out the ballot that had A person nominated for each of the four officer positions and guess what, they each won!! The PTO bylaws state that 15 voters as needed to elect new officers, and we just made it by the skin of our teeth with 16 people at the meeting. Thank you to those 16 who attended and a big thank you to those who accepted the nominations because otherwise there would have been NO PTO for the next school year. Your new officers are Sharon Orr as president, Cathy Desrosiers as vice president, Mary Fedora will be doing double duty as secretary and as a kindergarten teacher and Beth Duggan will be your new treasurer. The swearing in of officers will take place during the PTO meeting next month.

Items from the floor:

Questions were brought up about the Summer Festival. This will be taking place on a weekend in August but as of yet, we haven't heard much about the role of the PTO for this event.

Allison Everett (student) asked if the PTO would consider sponsoring her for a pageant that she's going to participate in by taking out an ad in a publication that would advertise the school. She was directed to address this issue with Niles Courchesne and the marketing committee.

School parent Meryl Desrosiers has stepped up to run the weekly Tuesday night Bingo. This promises to be a huge undertaking and we as a school cannot ask him to do it alone. The Desrosiers are a new family to our school and already they are stepping up to lend a hand as are other new families. But what about those families who have been here for years and have yet to become a part of the volunteering group? We not only need families to help with the fundraising aspect of the PTO, but we need families to be there in body at events to not only enjoy themselves as we all like to, but to step up and be counted as a part of the group who volunteers for the parish and the school. We need to see more parents helping out at Bingo or else we may have to make it mandatory for each family to help lest they

lose some monetary support by the Parish for their child's tuition. Everyone is busy, everyone is being pulled in different directions, and everyone has many obligations, but if all those people who manage to come to the Halloween Parade, the Talent Show, the Science Fair, or the Open House could find the same time to come help out at Bingo or any other event, maybe you'd need to help out less than you would imagine. Your child's school is not just some place that they attend, but it is a place that they belong. Please take the time to consider what more you can do for you child's school. Thank you.

Attendance- 3 officers, 2 teachers, 11 parents

Next PTO meeting May 12, 2010

Respectfully submitted by Liz Miele, PTO Secretary.

MATER DOLOROSA PTO TREASURER'S REPORT – April 14, 2010

DATE	TRANSACTION	PAYMENT	DEPOSIT	BALANCE
3/10				7,066.59
3/19	Bethaney Healy- Parade Supplies	50.00		7,016.59
3/19	Teacher Direct – 4 th grade supplies	95.61		6,920.98
3/29	King Ward – 5 th /6 th Field Trip	650.00		6,270.98
3/29	King Ward – 7 th /8 th Field Trip	650.00		5,620.98
3/31	Jackie Glasheen – Bingo Retirement	75.60		5,545.38
4/6	Deposit – Scholastic Book Fair		3,937.33	9,482.71
4/12	Scholastic Fundraiser Payment	3,051.28		6,431.43
4/12	Mater Dolorosa – Caps & Gowns 8 th	294.00		6,137.43
4/12	Mater Dolorosa- Memorial Fund	50.00		6,087.43
