

PTO MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 12, 2010

OPENING PRAYER- Father Alex

TREASURER'S REPORT- It was handed out and accepted and it has May 2009 treasurer's report on the reverse side.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- It is available online and it was accepted.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT- Dora was not present and she was unable to attend last month's meeting.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT- Bethaney was unable to attend last month's meeting also but Father Alex was able to answer some questions brought up at a recent PTO meeting regarding effects of the parish merger on Mater Dolorosa School. Father said that the dioceses has made it clear that they want the school at Mater Dolorosa to continue their commitment to Catholic education. The church at Holy Cross would be the actual site of worship after the merger but that other parish activities would take place at the MD Social Center. As far as having masses for the school children, Father said that St. Jerome's Parish would be more than happy to accommodate our needs if need be and it is only a short walk away. Another possibility is to set up the chapel in the parish office building for small services so that the children could worship in a place that evokes feelings of respect and reverence. Father said that parishioners of Holy Cross who have children attending Blessed Sacrament School will most likely still receive some tuition aid from the newly merged parish.

Father Alex has been trying to attend different meetings at Holy Cross but unfortunately some of them are at the same time as meetings he is obliged to attend at Mater Dolorosa. Father Alex stated that Holy Cross, like Mater Dolorosa Parish, is unable to continue their ministries for much longer in their current state. As difficult as it may be for some of us, we need to band together to form a more viable, sustainable parish for the future. Father plans to have a "state of the school" meeting but probably not until the start of the new school year. We will still need to have people helping with the many volunteering venues for the parish and the school after the merger as we do now. Many of these issues and questions have been addressed in the church bulletin over the past 6 months or so and also in the school parking lot. The information in the bulletin, according to Father Alex, is straight from the horse's mouth, so don't believe everything you hear. As Father Alex put it "you're better off believing what comes out of the horse's mouth than what you get out of the other end, especially if you're walking in it." Attend church and read your church bulletin, take the time to read all those papers your child brings home from school, and read the PTO minutes on the school website: you might learn something!

On Monday, May 24th, Merrill Desrosiers will be having a "no stress" dry run of bingo for those who would like to help out to give them a sense of what a night of volunteering would entail without the intensity of an actual bingo game in progress. A note will be sent home with the school children in the

near future so look for it and come see what you can do for Bingo and what Bingo can do for you. Volunteering, it does a body (and soul) good!

OLD BUSINESS:

SWEARING IN OF NEW PTO OFFICERS- The new officers, president Sharon Orr, vice president Cathy Desrosiers, secretary Mary Fedora, and treasurer Beth Duggan were sworn in by Kara Mercier. They will begin their duties on the first day of the new school year but Kara said we could combine our efforts, the “old officers” and the “new kids on the block”, for the summer festival.

TEACHER’S APPRECIATION LUNCHEON- Kara and Sister Corinne thanked everyone for their help, the delicious food and the half hour of peace and quiet. Kara read 2 thank you notes from Mary Fedora, one for the luncheon and one for the kindergarten weekly reader purchased by the PTO for her class. Kara also thanked Kate Gourd for paying the other half of the Cooper’s Cottage gift cards for each of the teachers.

COOKIE DOUGH- Delivery is scheduled for Friday, May 21st at 8 a.m. If all goes well, the cookie dough orders should be put together by noon, and ready to be sent home with the children or picked up by a parent in the case of large orders. We’d never turn away anyone who came looking to lend a hand.

END OF YEAR BBQ- The date is Friday, June 11th. The 7th graders will be running the field day activities as usual at each station. A few volunteers are needed bright and early to get things started, but we will need more help about 10:30 a.m. to set up outside for the meal and for the cleanup afterwards.

NEW BUSINESS:

SUMMER FESTIVAL- Joanne Wauczynski said that the date of the festival may possibly be changed to an earlier date than the planned August 15/16 weekend to raise monies to repair the social center roof. The PTO has again offered to sponsor the magician during the festival which this year will have a farm theme. Each school grade will be responsible for filling a themed food bucket to be raffled off during the weekend event. A note will be sent home informing each class of what the theme of their class bucket will be. The PTO will also have a basketball toss and maybe a few other kids’ games to run during the festival.

REQUESTS FOR PTO FUNDS-

The following requests were made and accepted by those present at the meeting.

Grades 4-1, 4-2 transportation cost to Old Deerfield for about \$250.00

Grades 1-1, 1-2 entrance fees for a walking trip to the Children’s Museum and Merry-Go-Round in Holyoke totaling \$260.00

K1/K2 about \$100.00 for school bus to the Soldiers Home since the children have been invited back for a cookout with the residents

Grade 8 for \$400.00 for a retreat in the parish social center running 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Grade 3 entrance fees for walking trip to Children's Museum about \$135.00

Grade 2 transportation fee of about \$230.00 to the Butterfly Museum in Deerfield

FLOOR ITEMS:

Mary Fedora presented each outgoing PTO officer with a gift from the PTO body and Kara presented each of her officers with a gift of appreciation as well. Thank you to Kara and the PTO for the generous gifts and all of your support.

The items that Sister Corinne approved are being purchased to upgrade the school and they total about \$700-\$800 (ie: purell dispensers and refills, new road barriers, new ball bin and playground toys).

If enough PTO money is available at the end of the year, some of it will be given to the school endowment fund.

Vendor Fair is planned for Nov. 6th with Dora Courchesne as the chairperson.

Father Alex mentioned that if at all possible, everyone should try to get to the religious art exhibit at Mount Holyoke College which is free to the public and on display until the end of May. He said he believes that it is closed on Mondays.

CLOSING PRAYER- Father Alex

ATTENDANCE- Father Alex, Sister Corinne, 3 officers, 1 officer/teacher, 1 teacher, 9 parents, and Joanne Wauczynski

Respectfully submitted by Liz Miele, PTO Secretary.

