

**St. Juliana Parent Club
General Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2008**

This meeting was the fifth scheduled meeting of the St. Juliana Parent Club for the 2007-2008 school year.

President Dave Bigley called the meeting to order at 7:42pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Megan Shank.

Opening prayer was led by Ken Watts.

Board Members present were Dave Bigley, Steve Farrell, Tracey Irving, Terrie Labreche, Rick Price, Megan Shank, and Ken Watts. Janet Donnelly was present in Mrs. Santoni's absence.

Board Members Mrs. Santoni and Marla Dorsey were unable to attend.

Handouts included the Agenda and March meeting minutes.

The motion was made and carried to approve the March meeting minutes.

President's Report

President Dave Bigley thanked everyone for their participation in the various fundraisers held to date and felt they had all gone well.

Dave Bigley stated parents need to come to the Parent Club Meetings and bring their ideas on what can be done for the betterment of the school. It costs \$5800 to seat a child in a classroom. There is a need to investigate if other parish schools are less cost. It was suggested a 2008/2009 Committee is formed to see how we can leverage what we, as a parish school, are doing.

A parent stated the 80/20 rule (80% of the work is done by 20% of the people) is in existence and more cannot be put on the 20% that are doing the work. There needs to be a focus on ways to be creative – need to take the resources available (parents' talents and professions) and use them for the betterment of the school.

Dave Bigley asked the group for suggestions on how to activate the 80% (those not active in Parent Club/school events). He suggested each person brings one person with them to the Parent Club meeting then they bring one more person and so on. A parent suggested there be child care when a Parent Club meeting is held; seventh or eighth graders could watch the child and earn volunteer hours. At one point there was child care at the meetings. A lot of time was spent on setting up the child care and making sure it was staffed. However, the child care was disbanded because it was found the parents of the seventh or eighth graders did not want them watching the children.

A parent recommended parents are given a reason to come to the meeting. Bringing in guest speakers would give parents a reason to come to the meetings. Dave Bigley suggested the agenda is set for the year which would include guest speakers. A parent suggested a speaker from Rosary High School and/or Servite High School to talk about curriculum, tuition, testing, etc.

A parent expressed concern that there are too many tabled items from one meeting to the next meeting. The parent went on to state there needs to be better reporting on fundraisers and committee reports. More than an overview of what each committee is doing is needed. Dave Bigley said not one agenda item had been received from a parent to date. Parent Club agenda items should be sent to Dave.

A parent suggested networking with other Parent Club Boards to see what they do/are doing to increase the number of people attending their meetings. A parent suggested students perform at the end of each Parent Club meeting to increase parent participation. Another parent suggested the agenda is sent out with prioritized items and there is always an open agenda item at every meeting, i.e., an allotted period of time to bring up any items (not already on the agenda) for discussion.

A parent asked if the issues brought before the Board or brought up at a Parent Club meeting go any where. It was stated that Mrs. Santoni's door is always open and she is always willing to discuss issues with parents. It was also stated that concerns can be brought up at Parent Club meetings. The parent went on to say that they thought the Parent Club should actively participate in the management of school; they should be a true board that governs what the school does.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Donnelly was present for Mrs. Santoni. Mrs. Santoni is in Washington D.C. with the eighth grade class. Mrs. Donnelly reported the first grade teacher, Miss Maran, is doing well. There have been fewer first graders in the health center since the start of the year which indicates their stress is reduced. Miss Carreon will be married on Saturday, April 12. Mrs. Bigley and Mrs. Barker will be filling in while Miss Carreon is gone (approximately a week and a half) with wedding related matters.

Mrs. Donnelly brought up the subject of the increase in tuition for the 2008/2009 school year. The increase is primarily due to bringing teachers' salaries to be on parity with public school teachers. Mrs. Donnelly turned the subject over to Treasurer, Rick Price.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Price stated more than a year ago the discussion was began on the attrition of teachers and what could be done to keep teachers at St. Juliana School. Starting last year the school set out to increase teachers' salaries over the next three years. The goal is to bring St. Juliana teachers' salaries to 85% of public school teacher's salary. There will be another increase in teacher's salary next year and will then try to keep pace with the salary increases of the public school system (estimated to be between 2% and 5% per year). Currently approximately 85% of the school budget is for salary and benefits.

Treasurer's Report (cont.)

The Finance committee sets the budget for the school and church. The Finance Committee consists of eight members and the budget is "backed into", i.e., what are the expenses of the school and church and it is then determined how the money will be disbursed.

A parent recommended the cost of the education fund is raised because corporations/organizations will match the fund. They recommended corporations/organizations are pursued that would match the fund.

A parent asked if tuition would be raised \$500 every year. Rick responded that could not be determined as the cost of tuition depends on a variety of factors such as the salary of an incoming teacher and the estimated subsidy to the school provided by the Parent Club.

A parent asked where the money in the Education Fund goes. Dave Bigley responded that the fund is being underutilized at this time. However, the fund can only be used for certain items or the tax status of the school is jeopardized. A parent suggested Mrs. Santoni reports at the next meeting what the funds are used for and where it goes if it is not used.

A parent asked if the 85% public school teacher salary parity was based on Fullerton teachers' salaries. Rick responded it was based on Orange County teachers' salaries.

A parent asked why St. Juliana School did not receive any funding from the diocese. A parent responded they had posed the same question to Mrs. Santoni and she had stated St. Juliana is considered a wealthy parish by diocesan standards and therefore does not receive funding for the school from the diocese. Such funding goes to school that are in greater need than St. Juliana.

Vocations

Father Pat, John McElligott and Freddy Rayos provided a presentation on vocations. John is a member of the St. Juliana Vocations Committee and Freddy is the current President of the Newman Club for local college students.

John stated the United States is in somewhat of a crisis in regards to vocations. Within the U.S. fewer and fewer young people are entering into a religious life. John suggested four steps everyone could take to promote vocations:

1. Make it known it is everyone's responsibility in the parish to promote vocations – John encouraged everyone to become a 31 Club Member which entails attending one extra mass a month to pray for vocations
2. Pray for vocations on a regular basis
3. Be more aware of vocations
4. Affirm vocations of religious

Father Pat spoke of his journey of becoming a priest. He also provided statistics which demonstrated the number of priests and nuns are declining. Currently 3, 200 churches are without a resident priest. Lay people conducting the mass through readings and giving out the host. Currently the middle hemisphere (e.g., the Philippines) is good for

Vocations (cont.)

providing new priests. The United Kingdom and the United States are not very good for providing new priests. The Southern Hemisphere (with the exception of Australia) is good for providing new priests. India is very good at providing new priests. Without an increase in priest the parish as we now it today will become very different – no more dedicated priest and many more lay people conducting the mass.

Freddy is a recent graduate of CSUF and has an interest in becoming a priest. He has participated in a number of religious retreats and is seeing an increase in attendance at the retreats. He suggested that parents be open to a vocation for their children and supporting a child if they have an interest in a religious life. He went on to say that those interested in a vocation need a network of support – a priest or nun who can be a role model for children, watch movies which show religious life, expose children to vocational materials from the diocese, etc.

Committee Reports

Fish Fry – Twenty-five Fish Fry Surveys were returned. The responses for the most part were split 50/50. Fifty percent liked the fish and fifty percent did not like the fish. There was a dominate request for the return of grilled fish. It was suggested a tuna salad and a pasta dish is added to the menu. It was 50/50 if attendees would prepay for a special item. Those in attendance were reminded the fish fry is really to be a community building event.

Golf Tournament – The event will be held April 28. Golfers and sponsors are needed for the event. The Tournament Committee is trying to arrange free after school care for the children of those who volunteer to work the tournament. Spouses were encouraged to attend the Tournament dinner.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terrie Labreche
Secretary