

Saint Columba Parish Council of Catholic Women
Meeting Minutes
7pm 10 September 2012

This was the first meeting of the Saint Columba Parish Council of Catholic Women. Becky Flynn called the meeting to order. She and Krista Troiani led the meeting. Monsignor Lawrence was also in attendance to guide the group. Becky introduced our guest speaker Anne Hasting who is the president for the Diocese of Harrisburg Council of Catholic Women.

Anne came to speak to our group about what a Council of Catholic Women does, examples of projects that other parishes currently do, and how a general meeting would be held. She went over an example agenda for a meeting. She distributed prayer cards for Our Lady of Good Council and led us in this prayer. Anne also stated that she would get our parish council a copy of the binder she had with information about the organization for our diocese. She recommended that we take time to get acquainted and decide what we would like to do with our group before focusing on the details of bylaws and proper parliamentary procedure. She informed our group of the mission statement for The National Council of Catholic Women which is as follows. "The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its members to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. NCCW programs respond with gospel values to the needs of the church and society in the modern world." She also gave us guidance on monetary issues such as fund raising and costs for the group to pay dues. Monsignor Lawrence informed us that he would be able to fund our needs this year and not to concern ourselves with dues money fund raising at this time. He informed us that he would like us to be available to help him and the church with any projects that he needs help with when they arise. He gave an example of helping to prepare a reception for families on the day of first communion.

The ladies in attendance then had lively discussion about ideas for the group and brainstormed on the following issues:

- the lack of knowledge of what groups are active in the parish and what they do
- providing more personal welcome and support to new parishioners
- helping new mothers to feel congratulated and supported by the church
- ensuring that all members of the parish old and new feel engaged and welcome
- how to approach and invite members of the church to join groups and help with projects
- ensuring a continuation of good works in the church by having more experienced members and younger members work together in groups like the women's council

The final task of the meeting was to hold elections for officers for the 2012-2013 year. All nominations were uncontested and the group then unanimously voted each officer into office. The results are as follows.

President: Becky Flynn
Vice President: Krista Troiani

Secretary: Regina Wolf
Treasurer: Nancy Ramhap

We concluded the meeting with prayer and refreshments provided by Krista Troiani. Our next meeting was planned for October 1st at 7pm. Meetings are to be held the first Monday of each month at 7pm in the Maximillian Kolbe room at Saint Columba Church.