

**Character Council of Hamburg
Faith Committee
Minutes for Wednesday, May 20, 2009**

Present: Sue Santandreu (*SS Peter & Paul RC Church*), Suzanne McKenney (*All Saints Lutheran Church*), Pat Chlebowski (*SS Peter & Paul RC Church*), Barbara Bonanno (*Hilbert College*), Stacia Niver (*Wesleyan Church of Hamburg*), Sister Sharon Erickson, RSM, FC (*Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church*)

- The meeting opened with a group prayer written by Pope John Paul II
- The March minutes were reviewed. Pat Chlebowski motioned they be accepted. The motion was seconded by Suzanne McKenney.
- A list of the virtues for 2009/2010 was passed around for Committee members to review and sign up to write a reflection. The remaining virtues and reflections for 2008/2009 are: **July** (Gentleness) = Barbara Bonanno & **August** (Faith) = Pat Chlebowski. Please remember reflections should be sent to Sue Santandreu by the 20th of the month prior to the month assigned.
- The Character Conference held at Hilbert College on Marcy 17-20, 2009 was a huge success. A report will be forwarded to Committee members by Sue Santandreu. Suzanne McKenney reported they have received a lot of great feedback about the impact of the Conference not only on personal lives, but in professional arenas as well. There is a desire on the part of those who attended to hear more from the featured speakers. An idea for a potential speaker at next year's Conference is Joe Ehrmann. You can see Joe's website at www.buildingmenandwomen.org.
- The Character Carnival held at the HUB preceding the Conference on March 14, 2009 was also a success with 800 people in attendance. A Board member in attendance noticed a marked difference in the energy level and enthusiasm of families between the time they arrived at the event and the time they left. It was also noted that parents were already using the language of the Character Virtues with their children as they left the event.
- A 15th Board member has been added to the Character Council Board. Jeff Cirvoni is a teacher in the Depew School District. The Board is excited to have Mr. Cirvoni's contribution on their team.
- The Champions for Character met last Friday. They are brainstorming ideas for next year's Character Conference and Carnival and looking at who they can approach to consider adding to their team.
- The first "Integrity in Action" Awards were given out beginning in March. Winners of this award include: Pat Chlebowski for displaying the virtue of

Sincerity in March, Barbara Bonanno for displaying the virtue of *Virtue* in April, and Bill Haas for displaying the virtue of *Honor* in May. Instructions on the nomination process can be found on the Character Council website. Please encourage people in your sphere of influence to be thinking of people who display the virtues of character in their day to day lives for nomination.

- The Champions for Change program is currently reaching out to advisors from other school districts to expand the program. They are also looking at ideas for potential speakers for a Youth focus at the next Character Conference. One idea focused on Nick Vujicic. You can see Nick's story at his website www.lifewithoutlimbs.org.
- The Character Council benefited from a volleyball fundraiser coordinated by a teacher in Hamburg which provided \$600 to the Council.
- There will be a bike race in Hamburg in June. Organizers of the race have requested a partnership with the Character Council so that they can highlight character thru the race.
- **Character Related News from Churches:**
 - SS Peter and Paul hosted a 3 night retreat featuring Father Pomei who works in inner-city Philadelphia. Father Pompei spoke about the Kingdom of Heaven vs. this world
 - The Wesleyan Church of Hamburg was a host site for the Dave Ramsey Town Hall for Hope webcast on April 23. This national event gave advise and hope for making decisions in the current economy.
- **Meeting Schedule for 2009/2010**

September 16, 2009
November 18, 2009
January 20, 2010
March 10, 2010
May 19, 2010

SS Peter & Paul RC Church
All Saints Lutheran Church
Hilbert College
Wesleyan Church of Hamburg
Our Lady of Perpetual Help RC Church