

The LDC met at the Holy Name of Jesus Parish Hall from 7:15 - 8:40, Sunday December 14th.

Those present included: Mac & Linda Blythe, Mark Rasins, Gary McBride, Felix Beukenkamp, Ken Laird and Ellis Boudreaux

The session began with Deacon McBride delivering the opening prayer, then introduction of Linda Blythe as the newly selected FOG Life Center Director. The ensuing conversation revolved around the need to establish detailed plans for the operation of the FOG. Mac's previous conversation regarding lessons' learned with Mr. Earl Brice, the Community Life Center (CLC) Director at the First United Methodist Church, emphasized the need to have these firmly in place prior to opening our doors. This includes for example, knowing exactly what each room is going to be used for and by whom.

After that Deacon McBride and Felix discussed their visits to the diocese (including most recently on 19 Nov). Bottom line, we have met 5 of the 6 required steps for approval to go forward with the FOG development. Our proposal for budget change was briefed to the diocesans building commission who have determined we are on the bubble in our ability to cover our anticipated costs of \$54K/year (insurance, utilities, etc.). Therefore, we have been put on a 90 day hold for any construction activity. A major portion of their concern stems from the diocese building loan funds being cut in half as well as financial troubles within other parishes. The diocese has a revolving line of credit with its bank(s). Before the financial crisis in October, the diocesan building loan line of credit was about \$40M. It's now \$20M.

So, the diocese is holding off on all building loans for now.

The topic then turned to ways to raise funds. Mac reminded the group of what St. Mary's 'Fr. Mullins Parish Life Center Guide to Memorial Gifts' had in the way of unique fund raising. Examples include \$200 for 4X8 bricks and \$2,500 for limestone squares (see their attached flier). These are ideas for getting sponsorship from the parish for common items like chairs, tables, kitchen equipment, sound system, AV equipment and many other "soft cost" items.

That led to a discussion of the diocesan 'Share the Vision' 5-year, capital fund campaign. The details of that and its impacts were reviewed by all. Deacon McBride discussed his need to find 'co-chairs' for that effort this week, in time for the January kick-off (runs through May). This campaign should help HNJ a long way toward finally breaking ground on the FOG with much less dependency on the diocese for a loan.

Finally we covered the details of the Holy Name of Jesus Open Fields (HNJOF) project. Mac updated the LDC on his visit and discussions with the City of Niceville and their willingness to partner with us to create some sports fields. This effort can result in a quid-pro-quo, mutually beneficial arrangement with the Parks & Recreation department. This project is closely tied to the initial step of the FOG development since the land needs to be cleared anyway. Additionally, the parish is in the market for a tractor to handle jobs around the grounds requiring moving and clearing.

Our next meeting is scheduled for the first Sunday of January (4th) at 7:15 in the parish hall.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Mark