

4/22/2009 Approved as read

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Room 10A

MEMBERS: Herb Weber, Amy Bachmeier, Andrea Cowell, Mark Peterson, Bruce Stepnick, Bill Sonntag, Rick Weber, Barb York

EXOFFICIO: Father John Mitchell, Roseann Schoenherr, Larry Erickson

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION “*You Say, God Says*”

Presentation of the Worship Commission: Andrea Cowell, was the designated spokesperson for the commission.

- Fireproof (teen choir) and Children’s Choir will become more involved in the liturgies in the future. A new director for the Fireproof group has been hired.
- The hymnals will be refurbished instead of replaced with printed aids as needed to introduce new music.
- Efforts to promote and advertise for more volunteers have proven successful as there are 14 new greeters, and 1 new sacristan. Efforts to invite parishioners to become involved in liturgy-related areas will be ongoing.
- There is a mini-library with materials related to the liturgy in the sacristy cupboard. The materials are available for anyone to check out.
- The children’s homilies given by Father John are well received. Father John was thanked.
- The Worship Commission is planning ways to incorporate military personnel and their families through liturgy.

NEW BUSINESS

- Larry brought the Parish Pictorial Directory that is ready to be proofed before printing. The council members proofed the pages after the business meeting concluded. There was a brief discussion about the best way to distribute the directories when finished. There was no clear conclusion.
- The council discussed the election procedures for the May 16/17 elections. People will be invited to nominate candidates that would be good members on the council. These persons will be contacted by a sub-committee of the council made up of Barb York, Rick Weber and Bill Sonntag. April 29th is the deadline for candidates to submit their application at the parish office.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- Larry noted that there was a misprint in the bulletin of the price for the Friday Lenten Fish Fry.
- Larry Erickson, Business Administrator, will give a report of the state of the parish on Stewardship Sunday on April 25 & 26. Barb York told Larry that she

would give him a get a copy of one from St. Charles Borromeo, Minneapolis that was very good.

- Larry reported that there continues to be “roof challenges” and they are being addressed and fixed.
- The water boiler tank was replaced for \$3700.
- The trees on the parish grounds are being trimmed this weekend.
- The defibrillators are installed and the staff and volunteer training will be next week. The gift to the parish is valued at \$20,000.
- After the budget is finalized, a Legacy Program for gift donations will begin to be promoted.
- The new envelopes will starts in July/August. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) will be promoted and encouraged during the stewardship drive.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance- Pastoral Council members are invited to attend the finance committee meeting on Thursday, April 16 at 7:00. This will be a tough year of budget decisions with revenues significantly down and expenses have been cut to barebones already.

Building and Grounds- already discussed

Vocations-Deacon Alan Eilen will be ordained at the Cathedral on May 30. A Scope article will be written about the ordinations, the Council of Catholic Women are arranging for a bus to take interested parishioners, and a reception will follow his Mass at St. Pius X. at a future date.

School Advisory Committee- Bruce brought a copy of a letter written by the Archdioceses addressing the need to look at strategies for Catholic Schools in light of declining enrollment. There was a collaborative meeting with St. Pius X, St. Mary’s, and St. Judes to discuss common school-related problems. No outcomes were made. It was valuable, however, for communication between local parishes. Jeff Kemp, the current committee chairperson is looking for his replacement next year. Creative recruitment strategies are needed to attract more students next year. Larry suggested that we target northern suburbs like Hugo where there is the largest growth of school aged children. Transportation is the largest concern. Home-school alliances are another area that could be addressed when looking for creative ideas for attracting students.

Worship Commission- The Eucharistic Adoration chapel is doing well, but needs more committed adorers. The environment of the church has improved significantly over the past year. The building is being cleaned and purged of old and out-dated equipment and supplies. More liturgy missalettes are needed in the parish. It was suggested that less magazines subscriptions could be renewed for the kiosk and that money could go to order more misselettes. The sound systems needs to be checked and the mixer box fixed. A music endowment is being looked towards in the future.

Christian Formation Commission – There is a need for a maximum family tuition for larger families wanting to participate in the Vacation Bible School and Faith Formation programs. Larry agreed, however, there is no money in the budget to do this at this time. The name of this committee will remain due to the fact that *Christian Formation Commission* is more inclusive to the total parish without excluding the parish school.

There are plans to look at beginning a Sunday School Program in 2010/2011 as well as programs to better address the needs of special needs persons.

Social Ministry Commission - The March Food Drive was very successful. There was a concern that the ushers need to better identify those person who need assistance to receive communion in order not to miss anyone. Andrea will bring the need to the attention of the Worship Committee. Social Ministry was commended for doing an excellent job in the parish during difficult economic/emotional times.

Website Committee- The Website Committee is still meeting and updating the volunteer opportunity job descriptions. It was suggested that the website address be made in larger type on the parish bulletin so that it is more identifiable at a glance. The information in the new parishioner packet will also be made available on the parish website for all parishioners to access.

The pastoral council adjourned at 9:00 p.m. and members stayed to proof the Parish Pictorial Directory.