

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 28, 2009 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Room 10A

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

EX OFFICIO PRESENT: Roseann Schoenherr, Fr. John Mitchell, Larry Erickson, Matt Robinson.

INVOCATION

REVIEW OF APRIL MINUTES: The minutes were approved as written.

Vocations Committee Update: Father John Mitchell

- Father John announced that Father Lee Piche was named Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese.
- Vocations dinner – two young men of our parish were invited to attend with Fr. John.
- The number of priests retiring is greater than the number of the new priests being ordained.
- The permanent diaconate is under study by Archbishop John Nienstedt.
- Deacon Tom Semlak is planning to remain an active permanent deacon at St. Pius X this time. He is feeling much better after the kidney transplant operation.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Four new pastoral council members were elected in May. They are Deb Sandquist, Jim Firminger, Ken Perry and Kimberly York. Katie Uremovich was elected by Youth Social Ministry and Xtreme Team and was appointed by the pastor as the Youth Representative.
- Website is ready to set up Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) for parish contributions. Overall, the website is current and relevant as well as pleasing to the eye. It was suggested that there could be more mention of the website from the pulpit to encourage parishioners to look at the site and begin to use it. Each department is responsible for updating their own information. All is done under Larry Erickson's supervision. Herb Weber is serving as the technical support. Faith Formation is doing a good job of website use and due to the age of their participants, many parishioners are taking advantage of this technology.
- Larry suggests that the parish should be looking toward the future long-range planning of the parish. It was suggested that a visionary group be established to point out strengths and weaknesses of events and to brainstorm ideas. It could be a chartered committee from the parish council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

- Some general maintenance will be postponed until July 1, due to cash flow issues.
- The second draft of the pictorial directory is ready and will be ready for distribution soon.
- Budget presented for approval
 - It was emphasized that we need to come up with \$68,000 in special revenues to balance the budget. All parish programs must cover their costs.

- The focus of the Capital Campaign is to pay down debt, long term equipment purchases and build a reserve fund for the future when we get into the black.
- There is no panic, all department are carefully monitoring all budget items.
- The budget was unanimously approved.
- It was re-emphasized that increased participation in EFT giving will make a significant impact on the budget. A discussion ensued about the reason why person are reluctant to participate electronically. We must address these concerns in order to convince more to give electronically. Some of the obstacles noted were: identity theft, safety of the web site, is the timing of the giving period flexible enough? Larry assured us that Vanco is safe and he will explain it to any parishioners who need more information. If persons don't have computers, Larry will meet with people in person to help them sign up for EFT and answer questions.
- Faith Formation has access to a small group program that runs six sessions. It discusses seven steps to become financially-free. It is an extremely helpful program to help people with personal financial management.
- Amy Bachmeier had a baby son on Sunday.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEES

- Finance – no report. The staff is working together cohesively with the motto that “we are in this financial challenge together.”
- Building & Grounds – no sprinkler system in the near future. Parking lot is being patched rather than re-paved. It was suggested that we place specific needs (like re-paving) in the bulletin in case an individual is inspired to fund the cause.
- School – Kim Feffer is the new chairperson for the 2009-2010 year. The Promise of Spring netted \$25,000. \$6,600 is being used for technology updates. The enrollment for next fall is down about 20 students at this date, but that can change at any time. The school is partner with Kitui, Kenya through the International Baccalaureate program.
- Worship – Armed Forces Weekend was celebrated May 23&24. The Wall of Service will be introduced in the near future.
- Website – There has been 97 groups of volunteer opportunities with contact persons and responsibilities delineated.

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PRAYER FOR FATHER JOHN

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 25, 2009

Minutes respectfully submitted by Barb York