

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Members Present: Tony Jurgens, Jeanne Hill, Sandy Kane, Mary Fox, Fran Teuber, Denis Tappella, Pat Regan, Dick Wise, Lisa Piotrowski, Ron Gilbertson, Alli Steiner, Mark Dittman, and Fr. Jim Perkl

Guests: Joanie Bauer reporting for Fidelis Lindner on Charity and Justice

Members Absent: Mike Wise, Fidelis Lindner, and Fr. Abraham George

Recorder: Sandy Kane

Opening Prayer: Led by Fr. Jim

March 2009 Minutes: The March minutes were sent out via email to members right after the March meeting. The minutes were reviewed tonight, and they stand as approved.

Parish Council Election Update:

- The deadline for nominations is today, April 21. As of 7:00 P.M. no nominations had been turned in. Mike Wise and Lisa Piotrowski, members-at-large, whose seats are up in June 2009, may re-run for election if they wish. Lisa has received 2 phone calls from people who have asked questions regarding Parish Council. She will call them back to ask them to turn in their nomination forms. The deadline will be extended, but forms should be turned in ASAP. The election will be held May 16/17 if more than two people run for the open seats. If fewer than three people run for election, there will not be an election, and the nominees will be appointed to the Parish Pastoral Council.
- There was also a discussion about who next year's Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson will be as there currently is not a vice-chair. Mark asked that someone on the current council step forward by the May meeting to volunteer to be the vice-chair, and then that person would then step-up to the chairperson position beginning in July.

Member Reports:

Parish Administration – Mark Dittman

- The Finance Council is putting together a balanced budget. In the fiscal year, year-to-date, we are up 5.4% in weekly giving. In the first quarter of 2009, (from Jan. 1st), we are up 9% from last year, but overall, we are down about \$40,000; and we are projected to have an \$80,000 deficit.
- For next year's budget, we are budgeting for 0% weekly income growth. Some drastic cuts were needed for next year in order to balance the budget. Salaries for parish and school staff will be frozen for next year. There may possibly be staffing or benefit cuts for next year as well in both the parish and school. Parish leadership has asked for voluntary staff reductions before moving on to see if cuts need to be made.
- School enrollment is projected to be down about 6-8 students from current year.
- SEAS will not incur bussing expenses for St. Rita's families. So. Wash. Co. has agreed to stop at St. Rita's for a pick-up and from there will stop at the Harbor. From that point, Hastings Public Schools will pick up and provide transportation to the school.

Youth – Alli Steiner

- No youth group right now because of Brian Hoyland's resignation.

- The *Sonar* concert went pretty good, but was somewhat disappointing. Instead of it being an upbeat concert, it was more of a service and was more calm than the group expected. There were approximately 400 people that attended.
- Confirmation is going pretty well. Right now, the students are working on group projects. The Confirmation retreat is the weekend of April 24. Confirmation will be held at the Cathedral on Saturday, May 9.

Charity and Justice – Joanie Bauer reporting for Fidelis Lindner

- MCCL and Community Caring for Life will sell buttons the first weekend in May and Mother's Day weekend.
- The resources of Community Car Care are being stretched as the need for car repairs is increasing.
- Judy Johnson is the new representative for Hastings Family Service. She comes with great knowledge of HFS and a passion for the people they serve. She summarized some stats from 2008. In most cases all categories of services increased.
- *Be Our Guest*, a new hospitality and dinner ministry, will begin the 2nd Thursday of May (May 14) at 5:45 P.M. Other churches involved in this community dinner are OSEL, St. Philip's, and United Methodist. Committee Chairs are: Darliss Wise – Hospitality Committee; Sheila Jones – Food Committee; Joanie Bauer – representative on the commission. Training will be held on April 30.
- Money from the parish has been given to help out this new ministry (Be Our Guest) for the first couple months, but money has not been set-aside in the budget beyond that. It needs to be a self-sufficient charity outreach.
- Fr. Jim suggested that each group pray together with the people attending *Be Our Guest* before serving dinner.
- Mo Sieben is now taking over *Sharing and Caring Hands*. She is replacing Darliss Wise, who served as the chair for the previous 25 years.

Spiritual Life – Jeanne Hill

- Children's Stations of the Cross went well this year.
- The tabernacle will now be on the altar until Corpus Christi on June 14. It's good for all to see this in the church.
- The group decorated the church for Easter.
- Divine Mercy Sunday went well. There were several priests to hear confessions. The Rosary was beautifully led by Diane Naatz. Fr. Jim's homily about the novena of different peoples to pray for each day was inspiring. There was benediction and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
- Upcoming Important Dates: May 1st all night vigil; May 2nd Joe Bambenek diaconate ordination at the Basilica; May 3rd First Communion; May 10th May Crowning of Mary; May 16th Archbishop to celebrate 4:30 Mass and dinner afterwards; May 24th Fr. Jim's anniversary Mass at 11:30 with reception to follow; June 14th Corpus Christi procession around the Church; June 28th Fr. Martin and Leonard Siebenaler ordination anniversary celebrations.

School Advisory Committee – Mary Fox

- Spring Fling is Friday, April 24.
- After putting a note in the bulletin, \$3000 was collected to help pay the tuition to families who have recently lost their jobs. The money collected helped out seven families in need.
- \$93,000 looks to be the projected amount needed for financial assistance.

- Fish Fry's weren't as well attended this year as they were last year. The school will look to see how to improve these for next year.

Parish Life – Denis Tapella

- The next Cinammon Roll Sunday will be on Sunday, April 25.
- On Saturday, May 16th, the Archbishop will be here to celebrate the 4:30 Mass. There will be a reception/dinner afterwards, and tickets will be on sale after upcoming Masses for the dinner.
- There will be a reception after the 11:30 Mass on Sunday, May 24th to celebrate Fr. Jim's 25th anniversary. Father's actual anniversary date is May 26th.
- Tanny Podgorski will be taking over funeral lunches.
- The fashion show date has been set for August 15th. It will be held in Seton Hall, and the Country Club will cater the lunch that will be served at 11:30.
- Jill Skaife is heading up the float for the parade at this year's Rivertown Days. Parish Life will make a monetary donation for the event.
- The date for this year's fall festival will be on Sunday, September 20th. Marie Huneke will head this project again.

Stewardship – Lisa Piotrowski

- The group last met on April 14th. At that meeting, they reviewed the Shared Ministry recent recruitment, which had the best response for quite some time. All the results will be given to the appropriate staff to distribute to the committee chairs accordingly.
- Volunteer appreciation spaghetti dinner seemed to be a success. This was the second year of this, and next year, the group would like to plan something similar but change it up some.
- The commission also reviewed the recent mailing sent out to the 900 parishioners that didn't respond to the recent stewardship drive. The overall response was positive and a great communication for outreach.
- The structure of the committee was discussed, and Tony and Faith will meet to break this down and look at various volunteers vs. subcommittees.
- Jan Featherstone reported on the 2008 Archdiocesan Stewardship Conference.

Finance – Tony Jurgens

- Mark, Rita, and other key staff people have done a great job under not-so-great circumstances building the budget for next fiscal year. Last year's budget was built with an 8% increase with the hopes of meeting the budget through the stewardship campaign. Next year's budget was built on 0% growth. See additional notes on the budget for next year in Mark's section.

Trustee – Pat Regan

- Pat reiterated how hard the parish and school leadership and finance council worked to create a balanced budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. He said that the Finance Council applied a great deal of pressure to balance the budget.

Pastor – Fr. Jim

- Easter was wonderful. It was great to see the church full. Father reminded us that conversion is at the heart of Easter, and he encouraged each of us to keep our own personal faith life alive and active.
- Fr. Jim asked the Council what they thought about the tabernacle being on the altar? It will be on the altar until we celebrate Corpus Christi on June 14th. The Council said they liked it

on the altar and suggested that Fr. Jim use this time to “teach” the parishioners about the tabernacle, genuflecting, etc. in an upcoming bulletin article.

- Fr. Jim asked the Council what they would think about having a NET (National Evangelization Team) team come and live and work in Hastings for a year. There is a possibility to have SEAS be “home” to a NET team for a year, where NET would send six members to come and live here for a year and work with our youth and be with our youth in the community. They mainly work with middle school and high school FAT (Faithful, Available, and Teachable) youth. There would be a cost to have them come (\$40,000 for the year) and it would also require people to host them for a few weeks at a time during the year. The Council was in favor of this idea.

Closing Prayer – Led by Fr. Jim

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 PM in the St. Clare Room.