

## NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – January 27, 2009

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

Church Of The Nativity

Kevin Wolf led the Pastoral Council in Evening Prayer at 6:35 p.m.

At 6:47 p.m. Chairperson Leon Senn called the meeting to order, pursuant to notice.

Council members introduced themselves to our new members, Abby Rheault, Mykal Nester, and Ed Schwind. Leon then led the Council in Opening Prayer.

### **Council Members Present:**

Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Gary Luiten, Duane Koble, Terri Dahl, Bonnie Faller, Ken Jablonsky, Brenda Lang, Joe Miranowski, Bev Nesler, Chenise Nesler, Abby Rheault, Greg Schmalz, Ed Schwind, Leon Senn, Kevin Wolf, and Corporate Lay Secretary Mykal Nester

### **Council Members Absent:**

Betty Hund and Joel Simons

Minutes from the 1/25/2009 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting and accepted by unanimous consensus after a correction noted by Fr. Kevin on page four to change the cost of the New Earth publication to approximately \$11,000/year.

### **Old Business**

*Nativity Anew II Building Project* – Fr. Kevin reported that the building committee had not met. Father said that parishioners would soon receive their annual financial report with their personal and campaign contributions by mail. After roof expenses, there is \$600,000 in the Building Fund. \$2 million must be in the bank before Nativity can break ground. However, there is an issue with a 49-year old boiler in the school portion of the campus; and a heating infrastructure that will need to be replaced at a cost of \$700,000. Fr. Kevin proposed entering into discussion with the architect to start replacing the heating system in 2009 because funds are available to cover these costs; and the fact that construction costs are down from a year ago.

*Capital Campaign Fundraising Update* – Fr. Kevin reported that there was no change in the capital campaign. Plan to reapply for a grant from the Stern Foundation since all requests were cancelled due to the downturn in the economy. Parishioners are encouraged to continue making their pledges. Approximately \$17% of actual dollars have been collected to date.

*Nativity Long Range Plan* – Fr. Kevin collected the council members' responses to the Parish Vitality Sheet. **If you have not completed it yet, Father set a deadline of February 8<sup>th</sup> to respond.** The long range planning committee will take the responses under advisement.

Recording Secretary Brenda Lang asked council members if there were any changes to the Council Member list; and verified that e-mails are being received from her.

### **New Business**

*Parish's 50<sup>th</sup>-Anniversary Celebration* – Fr. Kevin reported that Nativity's Jubilee Year would be from 2010-2011. Three major events are being planned at that time.

This year's mission and Lenten Journey for Nativity will include:

- February 22-23 – Fr. Kevin will speak on “*Sin and Obstacles to Grace*” and “*Grace as Celebration*”.

- February 24 – Mardi Gras Talent Show.
- Lenten Retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola facilitated by Sr. Andrea Arendt. Six group sessions will be held starting March 1<sup>st</sup> with a commitment of 15-30 minutes of prayer each day.
- March 31 - All Parish Read discussing “*Way of the Cross: Gateway to Resurrection*” by Joan Chittister.
- Tuesdays during Lent – Evening Prayer in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m.

**Fr. Jack Davis’ 40<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary Celebration** –Fr. Gary Luiten reported that the date is set for June 14<sup>th</sup>. From Betty Hund’s e-mail report to the council, plans are on hold due to issue with the Chimbote Choir not being approved for visas, due to not meeting minimum requirements.

**Msgr. Allan Niles’ 60<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary Celebration** – Fr. Kevin said that Msgr. Nilles has selected the date for June 21, 2009. No further plans have been made at this time.

### **Pastor’s Comments**

Fr. Kevin commented on the following parts of his report:

- The FCSN Board continues to meet. The Development Foundation announced its Capital Campaign this year for debt retirement and adding athletic facilities.
- Nativity parish hosted the Catholic Schools Week Teacher & Staff Appreciation Banquet.
- Visits to MeritCare were down in December, but have picked up significantly in January.
- In 2008, Fr. Kevin presided at 11 funerals, 17 baptisms and witnessed 5 marriages.
- Noted that many people have approached him about coming back to the church.

Kevin Wolf asked if a picture or more information might be included in the bulletin regarding those who have died in our parish. Discussion followed with some suggestions. Fr. Kevin said the Pastoral Team could take this under advisement; as well as the Welcoming Committee who were looking to expand with pictures of new members and their families.

### **Associate Pastor’s Report**

Fr. Gary reported he had taken a week vacation in Montana in January.

- *Faith Formation & Youth Ministry* – Actively involved with visiting the school weekly, presiding at Mass Thursday afternoons, faith formation classes on Wednesdays, and leading a scripture study on Sundays. Have assisted where needed for WoW and LinC.
- *RCIA* – On January 10<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Gary blessed marriages for two Burundi couples, and received three people into full communion with the church.
- *Cursillo* – Fr. Gary reported that he would be the spiritual director for a Men’s Cursillo the last weekend in January in Valley City.

**Stewardship Council** – Corporate Lay Secretary Mykal Nester reported that the 2008 Gods Gift of Appeal goal had been met, and that the 2009 goal will be slightly lower. The Council is considering forming a sub-group “Time & Talent Stewardship Committee” so as to use their meeting time more efficiently with the number of agenda items they have to discuss. The council recommended Nativity not participate in a Diocesan Offertory Campaign at this time with the current Capital Campaign in process. The Diocesan Offertory Campaign is a mail campaign that targets increasing Sunday offerings.

## **Director of Administration's Report**

Duane Koble highlighted the following from his report that was e-mailed prior to the meeting:

- *Catholic Mutual Insurance* – Had agreed two years ago to phase in an increase in property values. In 2009, the appraised value plus two years of inflation factor will be in the appraised value for a total of just over \$10 million. Duane's report included an itemized property valuation for each section of the campus for 2008 and 2009.
- *Stewardship Options* – 150 households are using ACH or credit card formats for their parish stewardship. Duane continues to encourage these options.
- *Snow Removal* – As part of their contract, MeritCare cleans the parking lot of snow. Ice has been a challenge this winter. During the day, Frank LaLonde has been removing snow to ensure student safety. Catholic Mutual Insurance has requested a maintenance log be kept.
- *Nativity News E-Mail* – 200 parishioners are signed up. Consider signing up if interested.
- *Christmas Party* – Has been a wonderful way to celebrate this feast day. Due to a snowstorm the third Sunday in December and a decrease in attendance, it was necessary to pull funds from the restricted reserve (Christmas Party Fund) to cover costs for this ministry. A special thank you to Angie Olson, Chair and Amy O'Connor, Chair in Training for their contributions.
- *Campus Plant Maintenance* – A settlement has been received from Catholic Mutual for the kitchen plumbing damage. In 2008, Nativity had \$35,000 of unplanned capital plant expenditures due to kitchen, boiler, and parking lot issues. Other repairs once school is out will be the collapsed underground sewer pipe.
- *Nativity Anew II Project Update* – The roof project was completed and approved for full payment of the expense probably in February
- *Deacon Dave Opsahl* – Deacon Dave has been appointed to the Nativity Parish community by the Diocese of Fargo.  
He will work with Fr. Kevin in Pastoral Care and other ministry areas as needed. Duane noted that the Knights of Columbus had purchased a white dalmatic as an ordination gift for Deacon Dave to use at liturgies. Duane shared Deacon Dave's thank you letter with the council.
- *Brunch & Learn Series* – Three workshops have been scheduled by the Health Advisory Commission on January 24, February 28, and March 28. All are encouraged to attend.
- *Walk On January 21<sup>st</sup>* – The Nativity Youth held their annual spaghetti dinner and presented a "Walk on-Peru Panel" where the youth shared their experiences from their 2008 mission trip to Chimbote, Peru.
- *God's Gift of Appeal for 2008* – Reached 100% of the \$120,000 goal. Duane provided an itemized summary of prior years' goals and pledges from 2001 through 2008. The 2009 goal for Nativity has been set at \$118,000. Duane handed out a brochure that provides more detailed information about the God's Gift of Appeal.
- *Care & Share for 2009* – 4% of the offertory is set aside for agencies that Nativity discerns to support.
- *Bishop's Open Forum Meetings* – All are invited to hear Bishop Samuel at an open forum on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church.
- *Technology Committee* – Have begun to form a sub-committee that includes Leon Senn, Frank LaLonde and Duane Koble that will report to the parish Stewardship-Finance Council. Future technology needs of the parish will be addressed. Efficiencies need to be put in place; i.e. a backup plan if the server would go down, bringing electronic e-mail in-house, and smart boards for presentations in the two meeting rooms; to name a few.
- *Heating Plant* – The Administrative Team has been checking the heating system during the late night hours this winter because the heating plant is 49-years old (school portion of the campus)

and the sub-zero temperatures can be hard on the system. There is no backup heat source if a failure would occur. There is one hallway that no longer has any heat and cannot be fixed. Chairman Leon Senn questioned if the FCSN or Diocese might assist with this issue. Fr. Kevin stated that this is part of the NativityII Anew Plan and the funds will be available this summer to replace the heating system.

- *EMS Lite* – The computer network “Event Management System” has just been updated for the campus. These updates will improve communication for everyone involved at the campus.
- *Notary Public* – With the number of requests for this service, Duane stated that he has reinstated his license to again provide notary services.
- *Thank You to Leon Senn and Family* – For hosting the Pastoral Council’s Christmas Social on December 29<sup>th</sup> at their home.
- *Nativity AnewII Capital Campaign* – 537 of 1,665 parish households (33%) are participating. As of 12/31/2008, \$39,000 of pledges is still outstanding to be collected. A mailing will be sent for these contributions. Duane provided a summary of financials for the Capital Campaign in his report.
- *Summary of Financials as of 12/31/2008* – Duane handed out the 2008 Actual Budget and 2009 Budget that reflected a loss of (\$22,079) at year-end. The ratio of income to expense was excellent when taking poor investment interest into account, with income at 93% and expenses at 95%. Duane reported that the 2009 budget would be slightly higher than prior years due to including COLA increase for salaries and health insurance costs that have increased by 20%. The Diocese will be evaluating the Blue Cross health plan and other options. Fr. Kevin noted that the priests moved their coverage to another company because of Blue Cross’ increases. If anyone is interested in the financial details, please contact Duane. He will continue to provide monthly financial reports at council meetings during the year.

Abby Rheault asked if the Pastoral Team was aware of a bump in the Nativity parking lot. Duane made note of this and the fact that they are aware of some sinking in parts of the lot too.

Kevin Wolf questioned if the Sunday Offertory has been impacted by the Capital Campaign? Duane responded that it has not been impacted; and Fr. Kevin noted that February is the lowest offertory month and July due to the God’s Gift of Appeal campaign.

### **Committee & Commission Reports**

*Buildings & Grounds Committee* – The committee did not meet in January according to Liaison Bonnie Faller, so there was nothing to report. Ed Schwind said that he would volunteer to make minor repairs as needed at the church and asked he should contact. Duane said that the Knights of Columbus assist in this area, but that he will put him in touch with Frank LaLonde. Broken kneelers were discussed, as Bev Nesler commented that the kneelers are constantly in need of repair due to children standing on the parts that touch the floor when the kneeler is up. She also said that the carving and writing on the back of the pews is causing a lot of damage.

*Deanery Representative* – No report at this time from Jean Hannig.

*FCSN* – Liaison Kevin Wolf reported that the council has been working on several policies. He noted that this week is Catholic Schools Week and to attend if you can. Kevin mentioned that Sullivan Junior High School was covered on the news for their roll out of a drug-testing program, the first one in the State of North Dakota. Is an excellent program to raise drug awareness in the community and is targeting an appropriate age group. A seminar was held on internet safety recently. Cell phone usage is also a concern and will be addressed at another seminar. Continue to evaluate emergency issues and security concerns at Shanley.

Health Advisory Commission – Liaison Betty Hund was absent; but had e-mailed her report that stated the celebration for Fr. Jack Davis' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary is on hold, pending the Chimbote choir securing their visas, as reported earlier by Fr. Gary.

Liturgical Commission – Liaison Terri Dahl had e-mailed a December and January report to the Council since the commission had met twice since the November meeting. Abby Rheault said that all leaders of the parish will receive two books for the March 31<sup>st</sup> Parish Read, and ask that each leader bring a person not in a leadership position to the Parish Read. The read will focus on the Stations of the Cross.

Parish Faith Life Commission – Liaison Joe Miranowski reported that the commission has discussed inviting and mentoring new people to Nativity beyond the sign up process. Are considering an evening orientation to discuss Nativity's goals, mission, time & talent, how we may help in a person's faith journey, etc. Considering have CRHP team members assist in contacting new members. Due to the cost of speakers, the commission discussed sharing this expense with other parishes and opening the mission to all Catholic churches in the FM area. Other topics discussed included increasing attendance, restarting CRHP, the WoW, LinC, RCIA, and Parent Partnership Grade 1-6. Joe noted that there was positive feedback on the Advent Backpack of Grace program.

Social Justice Commission – Liaison Ken Jablonsky reported that several grant requests had been reviewed and approved; i.e. Birthright and sponsorship for Martin Luther King Day celebration. Grant request for African Heart, American Soul was not funded at this time due to limited grant funds. Ken informed the council that Project Homeless Connect will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Fargo Centennial Hall and volunteers are welcome to assist with this project.

Staff Representative – Abby Rheault had no formal report to provide.

Youth Ministry – Chenise Nesler reported that the Spaghetti Dinner was a success; as was the Elementary Retreat they did again and will be planning another in March. The youth groups have scheduled a ski trip at the Andes Tower Hills on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The second Mardi Gras Talent Show is scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the gym.

### Announcements

- Council members noted that the Mardi Gras Talent Show is scheduled at the same date and time as the next Pastoral Council meeting in February. Chairman Leon Senn will determine if the Pastoral Council will meet in February or not. In the meantime, all council members were requested to e-mail their reports to the Council as usual. Recording Secretary Brenda Lang will send an e-mail to the Council one week prior as per the usual schedule.
- Emphasis was made for leaders to attend the Parish Read on March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Kevin Wolf announced that another Parish Council member has been named to the Shanley Athletic Hall of Fame. Terri Dahl was selected and the ceremony will be held on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Bonnie Faller was selected last year.

There being no further business, Chairman Leon Senn led the Council in closing prayer.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Brenda Lang*

Recording Secretary