

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – May 26, 2009
6:30 p.m. – Nazareth Room
Church of the Nativity

Terri Dahl led the Pastoral Council in Evening Prayer at 6:33 p.m.

Chairperson Leon Senn called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Council Members Present:

Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Gary Luiten, Duane Koble, Terri Dahl, Betty Hund, Ken Jablonsky, Brenda Lang, Joe Miranowski, Bev Nesler, Abby Rheault, Greg Schmalz, Ed Schwind, Leon Senn, Joel Simons, Kevin Wolf, Corporate Secretary Mykal Nester and Corporate Treasurer Michael O'Leary

Council Members Absent: Bonnie Faller and Chenise Nesler

Minutes from the 04/28/2009 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting and accepted by unanimous consensus after correction that Ken Jablonsky was absent at the April 28th meeting.

Nativity Anew II Update

Fr. Kevin reported that there has been no change on the status of the campaign due to the continued affects of the economy. This fall, the plan will include contacting families whose children attend Nativity School but are not a member of the church.

Transportation for Immigrants and Others

Abby Rheault brought the Council's ideas from last month's meeting to Dave Opsahl and Sr. Juliana who will take the ideas under advisement.

Parish Long Range Plan Update

Fr. Kevin reported that the plan would be studied in more detail this summer to prepare for the next step in the plan.

Technology Committee Update

Leon Senn reported that a subcommittee discussed bringing Internet and phone connections independently to the church side of the campus, since any changes on the school side affect the church. All types of technology will be reviewed, including rotating out equipment and expanding wireless connections beyond the Fireside and Middle Room.

Fall Festival Update

Bev Nesler reported that they did an early kick-off the end of April with pulpit announcements to pick up a Holy Bucket to start saving this summer to purchase raffle ticket(s). Fr. Gary is waiting for any airline to provide tickets as a raffle gift. Committee still has time to secure the raffle permit.

Discernment Update

Leon Senn had e-mailed a report and minutes from the Discernment subcommittee that had met recently. Leon asked all liaisons to e-mail Fr. Gary with the openings they have in their respective council, committee or commission by or before mid-July, as Chris Stefan will be including these openings on the Time & Talent sheet that will be in the Voice. Decision was made to conduct the discernment process the same as prior years with the following proposed timeline:

- September 7th – Bulletin Insert
- September 13th – Time and Talent Homily
- October 25th – Pulpit Announcement
- November 1st – Discernment Session

Parish's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Fr. Kevin stated that the committee would meet this summer to begin planning.

Ordination Anniversary Celebration Updates

→ **Fr. Jack Davis' 40th on June 14th at 3:00 p.m.:** Fr. Gary stated that the committee met to organize the liturgy which will include the Peruvian Choir, a guest from Peru who will read in Braille, Prayers of the Faithful to be recited in Spanish & English, and people to serve as gift bearers, servers, proclaimers, Eucharistic Ministers, Sacristan, ushers, etc. A free will offering will be held at the Holiday Inn and possibly Fr. Jack donation envelopes in the pews. Planning for 350-400 people. Refer to Betty Hund's e-mail report that includes a summary of the Los Amigos Jubilee Committee Meeting for Fr. Jack's celebration.

→ **Msgr. Allan Nilles' 60th:** Fr. Kevin reported that the Evening Prayer celebration has been organized for June 21st at 4:00 p.m. at Nativity Church with reception following at the church.

"The reason for declining Mass attendance. It might not be what you think."

Duane Koble had provided an article on this topic at last month's meeting for discussion at the May meeting. The council broke into small groups of 2-3 people and discussed the questions at the end of the article; and then shared as a large group. The article brought out the generational differences in those who attend Mass from the Pre-Vatican II, Vatican II, and Post-Vatican II generations.

Afterwards, Duane asked the Council if they would like to continue discussions like this on various issues at future meetings; with a goal to inspire "food for thought" in setting vision and that our meetings do not just become a "reporting" meeting. The council agreed unanimously to include this type of discussion on future Agendas.

Pastor's Comments

- Marlene Christenson was honored with the Nano Nagle Award and is Nativity's candidate for the Presentation Sisters Salute to Moms.
- Provided spiritual direction to several people who decided to return to the church after attending the Catholics Coming Home program.
- The Great Bible Timeline Adventure series was great to lead and looks forward to doing so again next year.
- His emergency pager has kept him quite busy this month.
- He and Fr. Gary anointed almost 300 people at the communal services the first weekend of May, as well as 70 more anointed at two nursing homes.
- The Parish Team met at the YWCA for a tour and orientation of the facility.
- Reported that he continues to have requests for individual spiritual direction due to the harsh winter and spring and difficult economic times.
- Has been an extremely busy May as the parish, school committees and commissions wind down the school year for summer break.

Associate Pastor's Report

Fr. Gary also reiterated how very busy the month of May has been.

- Faith formation classes are done for the summer with a walk-a-thon on April 29th that raised over \$800 for the Heifer project. Due to rainy weather, the walk was held inside.
- Father will facilitate a scripture study in the fall on the Acts of the Apostles, continuing the Jeff Cavins series.
- Have been securing gifts for the Fall Festival raffle. Duane confirmed that a laptop computer has been donated for the raffle, as well as Hornbacher gift cards. Fr. Gary is awaiting responses from airlines for two round-trip airline tickets.
- Staff members are meeting to update Nativity's wedding policy. All nine shepherding couples are working with engaged couples at this time.
- Fr. Gary has also been busy with providing spiritual direction and noted that their priority is to Nativity's current parishioners, as they have had to turn people away from outside the parish.
- The Youth are planning a possible trip to the Smokey Hills in Minnesota this summer at their Christian Retreat Center.

The council then took a break to tour the Heating Plant in the 1960s part of the campus to actually see the boiler that has been the focal point of discussion for several meetings.

Director of Administration's Report

After the break, Duane Koble reviewed the following from his e-mailed report:

- The FM Council of Governments conducted a Faith Based Transportation survey. This overall Metro Mobility Study came at a good time since the council had just discussed this issue at length at last month's meeting.
- Nativity is reviewing an AFLAC Plan for the parish team.
- Handed out a 2009 Repair/Maintenance list for the work to be done on the campus. The Nativity Knights of Columbus will assist with weed control & fertilizer applications for the grounds, as well as with a \$1,000 towards the cost. The Nativity scouts have picked up trash and litter on the campus. Expected costs to maintain the campus grounds usually run at 20%-25% of the insurance replacement value or at least \$25,000, which Duane noted is not out of line for costs. The handout Duane provided also itemized the maintenance needs for the school classrooms.
- In process of establishing a Photo Release Policy for the parish community and being sensitive to the use of pictures of children or vulnerable adults.
- Pastoral Care Team met with the program director of the Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF)-Lend a Hand Initiative to fine tune Nativity's program and start reaching out to those in our community who are experiencing financial hardships due to a medical crisis.
- The Benevolence Restricted Flood Fund is in place to assist parish members affected by the flood.
- Nativity's 6th Annual Spring Salad Buffet was very successful!
- Update on God's Gift Appeal 2009, which is at 76% of the \$118,000 goal.
- Summary of General Fund of Support, Revenues, and Expenses as of April 30th reflected a 4.57% decrease in total income as compared to last year at this time, in addition to expected income decreases during the summer months.
- Duane's report also included a summary of the following:
 - Care & Share Financials as of April 30th
 - Nativity Anew II Capital Campaign financials as of April 30th
 - Past Due Pledges Report for the Capital Campaign – Note that the effect of the economy on stock has made it difficult for some parishioners to maintain their Anew II pledge
 - Stewardship Council will meet in July to determine how to meet budgeted expenses. The council noted that Nativity does have a savings reserve to help meet budget if necessary.
- Duane asked the council to e-mail him any time with requests for whatever additional information you would like him to report on. Council members affirmed that Duane has done an excellent job at keeping the parish council informed and summarizes the issues very well that affect the church and school.

Committee & Commission Reports

No reports this month from

- ◆ Stewardship Council
- ◆ Buildings & Grounds Committee
- ◆ Staff Representative

Committee & Commission Reports were e-mailed from the following Liaisons:

◆ **Deanery Representative:** Jean Hannig was absent but provided a report of the Deanery II Pastoral Council May Minutes, which included the recommendations that Deanery II will make to the Bishop at the October Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting. Jean will also continue to serve as the Deanery II Representative to the Diocesan Pastoral Council for the next year. Any questions, please contact Jean.

Fr. Kevin also mentioned the following:

- By 2010 or 2011, a stronger literal translation of Latin in the Roman Missal will be implemented at Mass. Music will need to be rewritten for the Gloria, Holy Holy and Doxology because of this change.

- Nativity may be a test parish for the Diocese's "That Man is You" program. This program targets married men to embrace what they are called to be, so as to strengthen their relationships and families.
- Has been discussion about building a retreat center in Fargo for various programs, but facilities in the region will be evaluated first to determine if there is a need to build another center or not.
- **FCSN:** Although Kevin Wolf had to leave early; his report also spoke about activities winding down before summer break. Contact Kevin if you have any questions.
- **Health Advisory Commission:** Betty Hund reported that the Brunch and Learn Saturday on Funeral Planning has been rescheduled due to flooding to Saturday-September 12th at 10:00 a.m. Boulger Funeral Home and Sr. Juliana will be presenting.
- **Liturgical Commission:** Terri Dahl said there had been a long discussion about the shortage of liturgical ministers at the 7:45 a.m. and especially at the 12:15 p.m. Sunday Masses. At the 12:15 p.m. Mass, approximately three-fourths of those in attendance are guests. The commission will evaluate what the problems are with the lack of ministers; and if a Mass were eliminated, what effect it would have on the other Masses and reconsider the times that they start.
- **Parish Faith Life Commission:** Joe Miranowski reported that the Evangelization Subcommittee discussed several ideas on welcoming newcomers to the parish.
- **Social Justice Commission:** Ken Jablonsky handed out a Clean-up Proposal that Margaret Bitz had presented to the commission on our Christian responsibility to respect and protect our environment. The proposal recommended adopting a section of I-94 and holding a neighborhood cleanup with barbeque afterwards. The parish council was supportive of the idea but recommended that the cleanup be kept close to the Nativity church area first before expanding further beyond the territory; and also cleanup the highway side of the Nativity fence that is always littered.
Ken also reported on "Beyond Shelter". Two representatives spoke to the commission about the upcoming Cooper House to be built in downtown Fargo as permanent housing for people coming out of homelessness. The Cooper House will have 43 efficiency units when it is completed by spring 2010 and is part of the FM area's 10-year homeless project. Ken handed out a list of items needed to furnish one unit and asked if Nativity could assist with any of these needs? Council members discussed possibly choosing one section such as "personal care items" and asking parishioners to assist in collecting these items to furnish the 43 units. It was noted that any items collected would need to be stored at Nativity until the building is ready to be furnished.
- **Youth Ministry:** Bev Nesler reported in Chenise Nesler's absence. Youth softball will meet June 3rd; the youth are looking at a possible mission trip to the Smokey Hills in Minnesota; and Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August. Bev also noted that the youth had not voted yet for the Youth Representative to the Pastoral Council due to being unable to meet because of the flood. Joel Simons expressed the council's appreciation for Chenise's thoroughness and brevity of her reports!

Announcements

1. Recording Secretary Brenda Lang said that she had been informed of two e-mail address changes. Please make the following changes on your Council Member List and computer e-mail addresses:
 - ◆ Ed Schwind asked that the council use his work e-mail as his primary address: eschwind@appareo.com. He does still use his home e-mail address, but does not check it as often as his work e-mail.
 - ◆ Ken Jablonsky's new e-mail address is: kjab83@yahoo.com.
2. Chairman Leon Senn announced that the Pastoral Council would hold its Summer Potluck Social on Tuesday-June 23, 2009. Leon Senn volunteered to host the social at his home.
3. No Pastoral Council meeting in July.

There being no further business, Chairman Leon Senn led the Council in closing prayer.
Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Lang
Recording Secretary

