

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – August 25, 2009

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

Church Of The Nativity

Kevin Wolf led the Pastoral Council in Evening Prayer at 6:37 p.m.

Chairperson Leon Senn called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m., pursuant to notice, and led the Council in Opening Prayer.

Council Members Present:

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

Council Members Absent:

Bonnie Faller, Joe Miranowski, Abby Rheault and Joel Simons

Minutes from the 05/26/2009 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting and accepted by unanimous consensus.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nativity Anew II Update

- Because Nativity has made energy investments to the school campus, Fr. Kevin reported that Senator Tim Mathern is investigating securing potential stimulus dollars.
- Fr. Kevin asked the Council when fundraising should begin again, as the state of the economy has not improved yet. Duane Koble stated that pledges are coming in very well and Nativity will be able to do the work that needs to be done, but any new construction is contingent on new capital.
- Duane explained that the next steps for the Nativity Anew II campaign need to be identified:
 - A plan to approach school families through personal contact or a letter.
 - Need to update the parish on the status of the campaign.
- Duane added that all the parishes in the Diocese of Fargo would be conducting their own Stewardship/Increased Offertory Campaign. Nativity will start this program September 2010.

Parish Long Range Plan Status

Fr. Kevin tabled this agenda item for a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fall Festival

Bev Nesler reported that the Committee had met and voted on serving a Roast Beef Dinner versus a Breakfast. She reviewed what has been completed to date and that the Festival theme will coincide with Nativity's focus for the year of Matthew 28:19 "Go...make disciples, of all nations...".

Discernment Process

Fr. Gary said "Discernment" has been included in the "Time & Talent" sheets that was included in the Voice recently; and will be placed in the pews the weekend of September 13th. Discernment has been scheduled for November 1st.

Fr. Joji Itukulapati Children Education Fund

A group of parishioners from Nativity has been ongoing supporters for Fr. Joji's education ministry. They presented a letter to the Parish Council, through Fr. Kevin, requesting approval to utilize the kitchen, cafeteria and Middle Room at Nativity for a "baked potato bar" event on November 7th to raise funds to

support this ministry. This group sought approval first because this ministry has not been recognized as an official ministry of Nativity. The Council gave consensus for the request as presented.

Health Care Reform

Because of the current bill on health care reform, Fr. Kevin reviewed the eight basic principles of health care from a Catholic perspective for the council's discernment. The council discussed several points of concern.

Pastor's Comments

- Fr. Kevin reported that two religion teacher positions have been filled.
- Two CRHP Teams are being formed for Grafton. Fr. Kevin noted that he would like to put together a CRHP committee to look at bringing CRHP back to Nativity.
- July was an active month for attending to emergency calls at Meritcare.
- The summer has been busy with weddings and baptisms for both Fr. Kevin and Fr. Gary.
- Been working with the men in the parish for "That Man is You" program being sponsored by the Diocese. The women's program is entitled ENDOW (Educating on the Dignity and Nature of Women).

Associate Pastor's Report

Fr. Gary handed out his report.

- Just attended an 8-day Silent Ignatian Retreat at the Maryvale Convent in Valley City.
- Interviewing for Youth Minister(s) since Kellie Bruckbauer and Lynn Stasch have resigned.
- Chris Steffan, adult faith life coordinator, will hold an orientation for newly registered parish members.
- Are in need of two Shepharding couples to fill two recent vacancies.
- Announced that Deacon Dave Opsahl and his wife, Karen, will be moving to Arizona in September.
- An Annulment Seminar has been scheduled on September 24th.
- Continues his Pastoral Ministry of meeting with homebound people of the parish.

Stewardship Council Report

- Corporate Secretary Mykal Nester reported on their last meeting from July. The first six months of the year reflect a budget loss of \$63,000 due to the Offertory being 5% under budget and bequests and donations have been less than expected. The staff has been working on reducing expenses.
- A history of each of the endowment funds was presented for the Stewardship Council's information.
- A partner from Eide Bailly who specializes in non-profit reviewed Nativity's Statement of Position and advised on how to record the restricted funds.

Director of Administration's Report

Highlights from Duane Koble's report:

- Nativity now offers a Section 125 Cafeteria Plan for their employees.
- Provided a listing of parish plant maintenance issues that have been completed this summer.
- Included a detailed report from Kevin Wolf about the main sewer repair project on the 1960 building part of the campus.
- Technology Committee Update – The campus now has two computer servers. Installation and transfer went quite smoothly so that the parish community's telephone & internet services can now stand alone from the school campus.
- The campus will be used for the Fargo-Moorhead "Out of the Darkness" Community Walk to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention on September 27th.
- Reviewed a list of safety concerns for the Nativity campus.
- Considering downsizing the Voice to an 8-page issue to be mailed four times a year. The Voice is also available on line.

- The Youth Ministry Position is an integral part of the parish. Duane reviewed the three goals connected with this position.
- Nativity is at 76% of its \$118,000 goal for God's Gift of Appeal.
- Provided a detailed "Summary of Support, Revenues & Expenses" for the General Fund for the Council's information.

Committee & Commission Reports

No reports were available from the following liaisons as these committees or commissions had not met during the summer:

- Buildings & Grounds Committee
 - Deanery Representative
 - Health Advisory Commission
 - Staff Representative
 - Liturgical Commission
 - Youth Ministry
- **FCSN** – Kevin Wolf reported that school programs and events have begun. Action plans are being formed to implement the various parts of the strategic 5-year plan. Oak Grove has lent their bleachers to Shanley to use at their new football and soccer fields. Enrollments have been good at all schools in the network. Fr. Kevin explained the various tuition assistance programs Nativity offers to those requiring assistance.
 - **Parish Faith Life Commission** – Liaison Joe Miranowski had e-mailed his report. In his absence, Chairman Leon Senn reviewed the report. The commission is looking at new ways to foster continued Christian relationships within the parish. Helene Arnold will be helping with the formation of a Special Needs Resource Group.
A question was raised regarding transportation for the Buruvian refugees. Duane Koble commented that they should have answers to this question in the fall.
 - **Social Justice Commission** – Liaison Ken Jablonsky reported that Margaret Bitz presented a Clean Up Proposal to the Commission for Nativity parish since the Pastoral Council was receptive to the idea at our last meeting. The plan will be to start with the church yard and tie it in with an ice cream social.

Announcements

Chairman Ken Jablonsky announced that the Pastoral Council's next meeting is on September 22nd.

There being no further business, Chairman Ken Jablonsky led the Council in closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lang

Recording Secretary