

## NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – September 22, 2009

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

Church of the Nativity

Mykal Nester led the Pastoral Council in Evening Prayer at 6:36 p.m.

At 6:50 p.m., Chairperson Leon Senn called the meeting to order, pursuant to notice.

### **Council Members Present:**

Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Gary Luiten, Duane Koble, Terri Dahl, Betty Hund, Brenda Lang, Joe Miranowski, 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, Ken Jablonsky, Joel Simons

Minutes from the 08/25/2009 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting and accepted by unanimous consensus.

### **Old Business**

*Nativity Anew II Update* – After researching, Fr. Kevin found that stimulus dollars tied to energy is through the power companies; therefore, he has spoken with Excel and will find out the eligibility requirements for these dollars. He also reported that Nativity Parish was presented the Test of Time Award for 2009 from the ND Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. An explanation of the award was in last week's bulletin.

*Nativity Long Range Plan* – Fr. Kevin stated that the plan continues to move forward, but they will need to review and plan for the next two years. He asked that this update be tabled for a future meeting.

*Technology Update* – Chairman Leon Senn reported that Ed Schwind had volunteered to be on this committee. They still are in need of more committee members. Please contact Duane Koble if you know someone whose skills would assist in this area.

### **New Business**

*Fall Festival* – Bev Nesler reported:

- Cherie Photography has agreed to take family pictures during the Fall Festival. This photo opportunity will be set up in the Bethlehem Room.
- Pumpkins will be available to decorate.
- Raffle ticket sales have been slow with only 128 sold to date.
- The Neslers will make Fall Festival announcements after all the Masses this coming weekend.

*Discernment Sunday* – Is scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup>. Fr. Gary reported that it was included in the Time & Talent sheet but few people looked at the last page. Bev Nesler confirmed this since many Knights of Columbus did not check helping as a KC. It was suggested that just the back page be printed and provided during one weekend of Masses to give parishioners another opportunity to complete this page of the Time & Talent sheet.

*Article Discussion* – Duane Koble had e-mailed the article, "The Presence of God in Our Midst" by Michael J. Daley. Fr. Kevin stated that the Eucharist is the center of our faith and spoke of the four presences of Christ in the liturgy.

**Parish's 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration** – Fr. Kevin stated that there was nothing to report at this time. Bev Nesler added that 20-25 people have signed up to assist with the Jubilee planning and Abbey Rheault said there has been some discussion on what will be planned. Nativity's actual 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary date is December 25, 2010 and the Jubilee celebration will be held during the 2011 year.

**"Going Green"** – Chairman Leon Senn encouraged the council members to bring their laptops to future meetings to cut back on the amount of paper used at meetings.

### **Pastor's Comments**

Fr. Kevin provided his report by e-mail and commented on the following parts of his report:

- He is a candidate for the Priest Representative on the FCSN Council due to Fr. Bachmeier's resignation.
- Two spirituality programs are being sponsored by the diocese. The men's program, "That Man is You", is being offered in four Fargo parishes and will be offered at Nativity next year. Brenda Nistler is trained to lead the program for women called ENDOW-Educating on the Dignity and Nature of Women.
- The Liturgical Commission has been discussing the 12:15 p.m. Mass and possibly changing Mass times. A copy of the survey that was developed was provided to the council for their input. Discussion included the difficulty in securing liturgical ministers for the 12:15 Mass every week; parking congestion between the 9:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Masses; in addition to the fact that total Mass attendance for all Masses has dropped by 100 people per year for the past four years. Therefore, dropping the 12:15 p.m. Mass is being considered and changing the 10:45 a.m. Mass to 11:00 a.m. The survey will be completed in October and a decision will be made.

### **Associate Pastor's Report**

Fr. Gary handed out his report and commented on the following parts of his portfolio:

- *Marriage Preparation* – Presided at two weddings this month; three in October and 10 weddings scheduled into next summer.
- *Youth Ministry* – Reported that Jordan Buchhorn has been hired as the full time youth minister.
- *Father Davis* – Will be in the area to visit the end of September and again on May 2, 2010.
- *Faith Formation* – Will be facilitating the Acts of the Apostles on Sunday evenings beginning October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- *Annulment Seminar* – to be held September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Nativity.
- Fr. Gary is accepting donations for the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Walk for the Poor that he will be participating in this coming Saturday.

### **Stewardship Council Report**

Corporate Secretary Mykal Nester had no report as there was no meeting held in September.

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

Duane Koble e-mailed his report prior to the meeting:

- *American Foundation for Suicide Prevention* – This fundraiser walk will be held on September 27<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness about suicide. The walk will start at Lindenwood Park and end at Nativity's parking lot.

- The shrubs and flowers have been trimmed this past week and electrical & lighting issues have been addressed for security purposes. The Knights of Columbus donated \$1,000 for weed control.
- Medical & Dental Insurance for the staff has increased 12% for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Duane provided a written detail of the insurance plans in his report.
- With great sadness, Duane informed the Council that Abbey Rheault, the Music & Liturgy Coordinator will be resigning as of October 11<sup>th</sup> since her husband has secured a job out of state. The search will begin this week to fill this position.
- Announced that next Tuesday-September 29<sup>th</sup> is the Parish Read “Go and Make Disciples”. Evening Prayer will begin at 7:00 p.m. and Kathy Bourdon will lead discussion afterwards in the Nazareth Room.
- A letter will be mailed this fall to those who have yet to pledge to God’s Gift of Appeal, which is at 91% of goal. Nativity’s 2009 goal is \$118,000.
- Financials reflect a budget shortfall in total Offertory of 5.50%. The budget has been tight this summer, but all bills have been paid. An increase in offertory is usually seen during the last quarter of the year. Nativity continues to route 4% of adult envelopes to Care & Share. A visit was made to Birthright, which is one of the places that Nativity supports. Pledges for Nativity Anew II continue to come in regularly.
- Duane thanked everyone for their leadership.

### **Committee & Commission Reports**

No reports were available from the following because no meeting was held in September or there was nothing to report from their meeting at this time:

- Buildings & Grounds Committee
- Parish Faith Life Commission
- Staff Representative Report

*Deanery Representative* – Fr. Gary attended the Deanery Meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Kevin provided a summary outline from that meeting. Old business issues included Evangelization; Faithful Citizenship Brochure; Parish evaluations will continue to be done every five years; continue to work with foreign priests with their English speaking skills; programs being supported by the Diocese; and the new translation of the Roman Missal scheduled to begin at Advent 2010. New Business topics included Evangelization by using Catholic Radio more effectively; Forty Days for Life that starts September 23<sup>rd</sup>; and the GAPP Team, a pro-life group that will be canvassing college campuses the end of September.

*FCSN* – With the concerns about H1N1, Liaison Kevin Wolf reported that students are being encouraged to remain home if sick. FCSN reviewed their Strategic Plan Implementation process and has also started a review of policies. Kevin noted how difficult it was last week for everyone because of the death of student Nick Baily.

*Health Advisory Commission* – Liaison Betty Hund reported that there are two Brunch and Learn topics scheduled on January 23, 2010 and February 27, 2010. A fall Brunch will be scheduled to update the parish about H1N1. Discussed encouraging parishioners to refrain from attending church when sick, not shaking hands during the Sign of Peace nor hold hands during the Our Father, and possibly having hand sanitizers available in the church. Watch for bulletin announcements regarding precautions Nativity will be recommending.

*Liturgical Commission* – Liaison Terri Dahl e-mailed her report and commented that discussion is being held on Nativity’s Jubilee planning. A question was raised about Pat Callens duties as Assistant to the Coordinator of Liturgy and Music. Abbey Rheault explained that Pat is the coordinator for Art & Environment, maintains the music library, and coordinates ministers for Days, Holy Days, (Holidays) and Duane Koble added that Pat is also the secretary for Anew II.

*Social Justice Commission* – Chairman Leon Senn reported in Ken Jablonsky’s absence and noted that the next Habitat for Humanity Build dates are September 25<sup>th</sup> and October 13<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed. Clean Up Day is moving forward. Margaret Bitz is working on a program to secure pledges for Fr. Jack’s mission. The parish is in need of a leader for the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Formation Group. Please contact Kathy Bourdon if interested.

*Youth Ministry* – Chenise Nesler handed out her report that outlined the schedule of fall activities for WOW and LinC, which include a bonfire and dance. Both youth groups will begin meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Around 40 youth are involved in these programs at this time.

### **Announcements**

- Chairman Leon Senn announced that the next meeting of the Pastoral Council would be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2009.
- “Go and Make Disciples” Evening Prayer will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Discussion following in the Nazareth Room.

There being no further business, Chairman Leon Senn led the Council in closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Brenda Lang*

Recording Secretary