

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – October 28, 2008

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

Church of the Nativity

Chris Steffan, Adult Faith Life Coordinator, and parish member Brian Walker were in the Bethlehem Room tonight to take individual pictures of the council members. Chris will be sharing the various council and commission member's responses to the question, "Why do you believe being on this council has been a meaningful part of your life?" in the Voice. We appreciate Brian donating his time and photography services for this project.

Leon Senn led the Pastoral Council in Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:50 p.m., Chairperson Ken Jablonsky called the council meeting to order, pursuant to notice.

Council Members Present:

Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Gary Luiten, Duane Koble, Terri Dahl, Betty Hund, Cindy Hutchins, Ken Jablonsky, Brenda Lang, Joe Miranowski, Bev Nesler, Chenise Nesler, Greg Schmalz, Leon Senn, Joel Simons, and Corporate Secretary Jason Schwengler.

Council Members Absent:

Bonnie Faller and Kevin Wolf.

Minutes from the 09/23/2008 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting. Jason Schwengler stated that he should be listed as absent and the dates for the parish's 50th Anniversary under "New Business" should be December 2010 through December 2011. With these corrections, the minutes were accepted by unanimous consensus.

Old Business

Nativity Anew II Building Project – Fr. Kevin reported that the committee has not met yet; but only minimal work is left on the roof project. The \$83,000 cost will be paid soon.

Capital Campaign Fundraising Update – Due to the downturn in the economy, Fr. Kevin reported that the campaign is on hold. 10% of pledges have been received to date and some stock has been allocated to the campaign. With only \$2.5M of the \$3.5M needed to break ground, next summer's scheduled start date will need to be delayed until the goal has been met. Fr. Kevin will call the committee to meet. There are funds to pay for the roof project noted above.

Fall Festival Update – Bev Nesler reported a net profit of \$17,000 was raised from the October 5th Festival. The change in the raffle successfully raised more funds than prior years, but attendance numbers were lower. By not mailing raffle tickets this year, expenses were cut back which helped in maintaining a similar profit to last year's. The question remains why a parish this size does not raise more at its annual fundraiser.

Other Business

Terri Dahl questioned what action has been taken regarding the Parish Mission. Duane Koble stated that they are still searching for a presenter.

Duane Koble noted the following priests' 2009 Ordination dates and Birthday dates:

	<u>Ordination Date</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
• Fr. John Davis	06/14/1969 – 40 years	08/13/1943
• Fr. Kevin Boucher	06/01/1991 – 17 years	04/14/1959
• Fr. Gary Luiten	06/06/1992 – 16 years	09/05/1966
• Msgr. Allan Nilles	06/11/1949 – 60 years	12/15/1923

The following planning committees were formed to begin planning these two separate celebrations to honor them. Others in the parish will be asked to assist on these committees:

- **Fr. John Davis 40th Ordination Anniversary celebration** – Betty Hund and Fr. Gary Luiten. Plans include to possibly celebrate at the 12:15 p.m. Mass and consider a venue larger than Nativity Church. Susan Trnka will be going to Peru and will look into this further when visiting Fr. Jack. The date is planned for Sunday, June 14, 2009.
- **Msgr. Allan Nilles 60th Ordination Anniversary celebration** – Fr. Kevin Boucher-Chair, Terri Dahl, Leon Senn, Duane Koble, and Sr. Juliana Wisnewski-Staff Representative.

New Business

Review of Pastoral Council Members for 2009 - Chairman Ken Jablonsky led a review of the current Pastoral Council member list.

At the September council meeting, the following members discerned as follows for 2009:

- Leon Senn - Chairperson
- Brenda Lang - Recording Secretary

At this month's meeting, the following members discerned as follows for 2009:

- Greg Schmalz Vice Chair and Parish Faith Life Commission
- Ken Jablonsky Social Justice Commission
- Bonnie Faller Buildings & Grounds Committee
- Betty Hund Health Advisory Commission

The following members are either stepping down from their current position or were still discerning:

- Jason Schwengler - Resigning as Corporate Lay Secretary from the Stewardship Council and as Liaison to the Pastoral Council
- Cindy Hutchins - Stepping down as Staff Representative, a new representative will be selected to start January 2009
- Joel Simons - Stepping down as Health Advisory Liaison; will discern in November

Discussion was held regarding the term dates for the Youth Representative and to realign the term dates for the Special Elective Member with the school year. Recommended that the youth appoint a representative in April, so that this student could begin his/her term when the council begins to meet again in August. Duane Koble noted that a By-Law change would need to be made to adjust the term date for the Youth Representative from a "January-December" term to an "August-April" term. Any By-Law changes will be addressed at a future meeting.

Recording Secretary Brenda Lang requested that the members review their contact information on the Pastoral Council member list and contact her with any changes.

Discernment Process – Fr. Gary stated that a discernment gathering is scheduled for November 9th at 2:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Eight names were submitted from the Sunday pulpit announcement. These people will be contacted prior to November 9th.

Parish's 50th Anniversary Celebration – Cindy Hutchins reported that two people responded to the bulletin announcement to serve on Nativity's 50th Anniversary planning committee. She asked the council for any others that might wish to serve, as she would like no less than nine people on this committee. Cindy added that since it will also be the school's 50th anniversary; as Principal, she will be involved in the planning for this part of the celebration; and cannot also plan the parish's 50th. The council thought of several other people for Cindy to contact.

The following people have volunteered to date to be on the Parish's 50th Anniversary Planning Committee; and others from the parish community will also be asked to be part of this committee:

Leon Senn	Jason Schwengler
Sandra Gordon	Joanne Swanson
Terri Dahl	Kathy Bourdon
Ex-Officio committee members: Fr. Kevin, Fr. Gary and Duane Koble	

The committee should be formed by December 2008, so that planning can begin by the first of the 2009 year. Question was raised how the celebration will be financed? Duane Koble noted that the committee will need to establish a budget and a fund will be started for this project.

Long-Range Plan – Fr. Kevin reported that the different areas of the parish within the five-year plan are being evaluated. Fr. Kevin asked Joe Miranowski and Greg Schmalz to remain after the council meeting for a short discussion.

Pastor's Comments

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

- He is part of the Ad Hoc committee to revise the current FCSN Substance Abuse Policy
- Leading the Great Bible Timeline Adventure is very exciting. He brings a strong understanding of the first five books and is looking forward to studying the other books.
- 160 parishioners were anointed at the communal celebration of anointing.
- The October attendance count at Nativity Church reflected a decrease of 50 people per month since 2005; but the census totals reflect an increase in attendance numbers. No one can determine why this is occurring? They are able to filter those parishioners who do not contribute to the parish, do not have children in Faith Formation, and can work on accounting for those parish members who moved to nursing homes. However, plate cash has remained the same and they see 100 new households joining the parish per year. Fr. Kevin stated they would be reviewing the census results in more detail for any further filtering of the parish member list that can be done. Suggestion was made to mail a letter to those who have not been active in any manner and request them to update their registration with the parish.

Fr. Kevin and Bev Nesler shared the following facts with the council:

- very few people let the church know when they have moved from the area; or if their children have grown and no longer attend
- people may register at Nativity, but may be attending another church
- average attendance at Nativity is 1500/week
- average age in the parish is 52
- there is a large number of young children in the parish
- the church is assessed by "household", not by the number of people in each household

Associate Pastor's Report

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

- *Faith Formation* – Facilitating the gospel of the Jeff Cavins' Gospel of Matthew scripture study on Sunday evenings with 13 people.
- *Cursillo* – Fr. Gary asked if anyone has attended a Cursillo to please contact him, as he will be the spiritual director for a men's Cursillo at Maryvale Convent in Valley City from January 29-February 1; with the women's Cursillo a few weeks later. He also encouraged council members to attend a Cursillo if they have not done so already.
- *Youth Ministry* – Reported that he traveled with the youth to attend the annual diocesan high school youth rally in Langdon. 200 youth attended, Brian Butler from Louisiana spoke on faith and chastity, Mass was celebrated with the Bishop and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and ended with a dance.

Director of Administration's Report

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

- *Thank you* from a parishioner who expressed a huge appreciation to those who plan the budget, Nativity AnewII, and buildings and grounds for the new roof on the school. In that spirit, Duane expressed the priests' and his appreciation for the leadership and stewardship that everyone provides to this parish community.
- *Sunday Nursery* – Will now be open in November in the Bethlehem Room for the 9:15 and 10:45 am liturgies.
- *Christmas Party* – Is in need of leadership to chair this ministry. Therefore, the future of the Christmas Party depends on individuals or couples coming forward in this role of leadership.
- *Snow Removal* – The parish is also in need of someone to keep the church, school and rectory sidewalks free of snow this winter. The person will be compensated for their service. Any parishioner is open to apply.
- *Stewardship Options* – Duane has been communicating to the parish additional ways a person may give to their parish that include credit card or automatic bank withdrawal. Go to the parish website at www.nativitycatholicchurch.net for the forms.
- *Go Vote* – The Catholic Bishops of North Dakota have launched a website to help Catholics apply their faith to the elections in November. Go to www.yourfaithyourvote.org.
- *Permanent Diaconate Ordination* – The Diocese of Fargo joyfully announces the Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of David Rolf Opsahl. The celebration is Saturday, November 15, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Mary with a reception following. A dinner in honor of Deacon David and his family will be served at Nativity Church after the 5:00 p.m. weekend Saturday liturgy in the cafeteria. All are welcome! An RSVP by November 11th would be appreciated by calling the parish office at 232-2414 or e-mail office@nativitycatholicchurch.net.
- *Nativity Anew II Project Update* – Duane provided a detailed summary of the roof and campus site work that was done or still in process.
- *Nativity Campus* – Preventative maintenance has been started to clean the underground sewer pipes that lead to and from the parish kitchen. They found that parts of the sewer pipe had collapsed internally going into the building. Duane is working with Peter Vandenburg to replace the kitchen floor. Some insurance funding will assist with this project.
- *God's Gift of Appeal for 2008* – Is at 97% of the \$120,000 goal.

- *MeritCare Parking Lot Lease* – Fr. Kevin and Duane met MeritCare regarding another five-year parking lease of 100 parking stalls, effective 07/01/2008 to 07/01/2013. Besides the lease rent, MeritCare also will participate with the costs of stripping, sweeping, repairing, resealing, snow removal, and signage of the parking lot on a percentage basis. Nativity is grateful to work with such excellent neighbors.
- *Special Thanks* – To the Fall Festival co-chairs, Bev & Karl Nesler and Fr. Gary, for their leadership of this event.
- *Summary of Financials as of 09/30/2008* – Financials reflect a 5% decrease. The current financial markets continue to affect Nativity's investment income and donations have decreased as well. There are a few sources that could be drawn on to make up this deficit that we could expect to continue into year end; draw on savings, Social Justice or reserve funds, or budget the deficit into 2009. Duane provided a detailed "Summary of Support, Revenues & Expenses" for the General Fund for the Council's information. Duane answered the question regarding the 2009 budget and that the Stewardship Council starts the budget in November and is finalized in January. He also added that the budget will be tight with additional expenses for capital improvements and the anniversary celebrations.

Committee & Commission Reports

Buildings & Grounds Committee – Liaison Betty Hund had nothing more to report from what Duane Koble had already reported.

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

FCSN – Liaison Kevin Wolf was absent, but had e-mailed his report for the Council's review. No questions were raised.

Health Advisory Commission – Joel Simons had e-mailed the minutes from this commission. He reported that the Health Fair was excellent and the best that he had ever attended with the variety of health booths. 40 people donated for the blood drive. Overall, the health fair was very economical, excellent information provided, many door prizes were donated, and very little cost to the church due to those who volunteered. A few ideas were noted to include in a future health fair.

Liturgical Commission – Liaison Terri Dahl e-mailed her report. She encouraged everyone to attend the November 23rd services when the Advent Backpack of Grace will be distributed to all parishioners that will provide items to be used during Advent.

Fr. Kevin emphasized the importance of those who are greeters and ushers. These people are Nativity's "front line welcoming committee" with their smiles, greetings, and offering to seat people.

Parish Faith Life Commission – Liaison Greg Schmalz reported that they have four new members. Greg explained that the commission is broken down into two sub-committees that meet after the general meeting; Evangelization and Faith Formation. The Evangelization sub-committee discussed several ideas on welcoming and support of those who attend Nativity Church. The strengths and weaknesses of Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) was discussed and ways to involve more people. If CRHP were started again, the Evangelization sub-committee would initiate it, with an amalgamation of prior CRHP teams to be the first presenting team.

Social Justice Commission – Although absent, Liaison Bonnie Faller had e-mailed her report prior to the meeting. No questions were raised.

Staff Representative – Cindy Hutchins had no formal report or additional information to provide.

Stewardship Council – Trustee Jason Schwengler highlighted the following from the report he had e-mailed prior to the meeting and that had not already been reported at the meeting.

- Offertory is down; and interest income from the investment portfolio with the Catholic Development Foundation, as a whole, is only down by 10%-14% against the national decrease of 35%, because the council had reallocated some funds prior to the downturn. The council is awaiting payment from FCSN and the Fall Festival.
- Had an unexpected 21% premium increase for the staff's health & dental insurance plan renewal. Could draw on some savings to cover this additional expense.
- A \$600 donation was made towards the Lend-A-Hand program through Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF). The balance of \$1,400 will come from the Care and Share budget to meet our \$2,000 commitment. Nativity is one of four parishes participating in this program with DMF. Duane and Sr. Juliana will be forming a sub-committee to administer the funds from the Lend-A-Hand program.
- Nativity's Care and Share received a "Pay it Forward" gift of \$2,500 from State Bank and Trust.
- Jess Helvik and Mike O'Leary have discerned to join the Stewardship Council. There were five positions on the Stewardship Council, so this ministry need will be emphasized at the upcoming parish discernment gathering.
- Three days of Stewardship Enhancement are scheduled for the diocese. Nativity will cover the cost for anyone interested in attending on November 8th at St. Anthony's Church. The Diocese highly recommends attending if possible.

Youth Ministry – Chenise Nesler e-mailed her report prior to the meeting. She reported that the year is off to a great start due to the large numbers attending both WOW and LinC. They have the following events planned in November:

Nov 1: Making Pizza Corner pizzas in Valley City as a fundraiser

Nov 1 and 16: The high school choir "Daybreak" will be performing

Nov 1 and 2: The Nativity Youth Choir will sing at the 5:00 p.m. and 9:15 a.m. Masses

Nov 8-9 and 15-16: Selling Butter Braids after Mass

Nov 16: Hosting another elementary school retreat

In November: Volunteering at Churches United

Announcements

Chairman Ken Jablonsky announced that the next Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lang

Recording Secretary