

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – November 25, 2008

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

Church Of The Nativity

At 6:32 p.m., Chairperson Ken Jablonsky called the meeting to order, pursuant to notice, and led the Opening Prayer.

Council Members Present:

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

Council Members Absent: None

Guest: Ed Schwind

Minutes from the 10/28/2008 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting. After spelling corrections were noted for Chris Steffan's and Allan Nilles' names, and ordination dates and years corrected, the minutes were accepted by unanimous consensus.

Old Business

Nativity Anew II Building Project – Fr. Kevin stated that there was nothing to report at this time.

Capital Campaign Fundraising Update –Fr. Kevin reported that contrary to public opinion, the campaign continues to work towards the intended fundraising goal. Fr. Kevin will mail a letter to those who have contributed to affirm this continuing action, and notice will be included in the bulletin.

Nativity Long Range Plan – Fr. Kevin reported that the committee had met on November 5th and that after two years, the long-range plan is on track. Fr. Kevin handed out a Parish Statistical Report that included trends of the parish's population, religious education, liturgical participation, sacramental outreach, etc.

Fr. Kevin requested all Council members to complete the questions on Pages 38 & 39 and return their responses to him by or before the January council meeting.

The council meeting then took a break at 7:00 p.m. to attend Evening Prayer in the Chapel.

New Business

Parish's 50th-Anniversary Celebration – Cindy Hutchins reported that a committee has been formed and will meet again after Thanksgiving.

Fr. Jack Davis' 40th Ordination Anniversary Celebration – Betty Hund reported that the celebration is scheduled for June 14, 2009. After a 3:00 p.m. Mass, a reception will be held in the Grand Ballroom at the Fargo Holiday Inn. The Peruvian Choir will attend. Please let Betty or Sue Trnka know if anyone is interested in being a part of the planning committee.

Msgr. Allan Nilles' 60th Ordination Anniversary Celebration – Fr. Kevin Boucher reported that Monsignor would select a date after he returns from visiting his family.

Discernment Sunday – Refer to Fr. Gary's Associate Pastor's Comments.

Pastor's Comments

- Fr. Kevin continues to receive more requests from parishioners for spiritual direction and marriage counseling sessions.
- Meeting with an Ad Hoc committee to review and revise the FCSN Substance Abuse Policy.
- Given several presentations on various topics for Proclaimer Training, MACH 1 and RCIA.
- Continues with the Great Bible Timeline Adventure series with six adults.
- Meeting with Fr. Gary and Abby Rheault for liturgical planning for upcoming Sundays and Feast Days, and is in the process of revising the Funeral and Wedding Policies.

Associate Pastor's Report

Fr. Gary commented on the following parts of his portfolio:

- *Discernment Sunday* – Only three of eight people attended with Duane Koble and Fr. Gary. Unsure if holding this in October is a bad time for people, or if the timing conflicts with other things. Fr. Gary stated he did receive additional names after Discernment Sunday and is planning to contact them.
- *Marriage Preparation* – Since Nativity was the only parish in the diocese with Sheparding Couples to train, the diocese is rescheduling the training weekend for January or February. He is also preparing two Burundi families to have their marriages blest.
- *Youth Ministry* – Reported that he assisted the youth in making 1200+ pizzas at Pizza Corner in Valley City as a fundraiser.
- *Faith Formation* – Assisting with instruction of 65 children for their First Reconciliation on December 18th; and helping eight youth for Confirmation.
- *RCIA/Evangelization* – On November 8th, seven Catechumens were accepted in the Rite of Acceptance and four Candidates in the Rite of Welcoming.

Fr. Kevin added that more people are requesting assistance during weekends and that his time has been limited in providing pastoral care for these needs.

Director of Administration's Report

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

- *Christmas Party* – Angie Olson will chair the Christmas Party and Amy O'Connor will be the chair-in-training.
- *2009 Budget* – Will be starting the planning for next year's budget soon.
- *Stewardship Options* – Outlined the options of using credit card or automatic bank withdrawal. Go to the parish website at www.nativitycatholicchurch.net for the forms under Stewardship/Financial Planning.
- *Funeral Policy* – The Pastoral Care Team updated the funeral and memorial services policy. The policy has been approved.
- *Nativity Knights of Columbus Tree Lot* – Has been set up in the new location that was used last year and is in a more visible location. This is Nativity Council's largest fundraiser, which supports around 75% of their charitable giving throughout the year. Please provide your support.
- *Nativity News E-Mail* – Is up and running with 200 e-mail addresses in the system.
- *Dakota Medical Foundation Lend-A-Hand Pilot Partnership Project* – The Foundation has provided a \$10,500 grant to support the development of this project for Nativity members who are experiencing a medical crises. Tax-deductible donations are welcome. Procedures for this fund will be determined and the program marketed to the parish community.

- *Fall Festival* – Duane extended a special *thank you* to Bev & Karl Nesler and Fr. Gary for their leadership contribution to the Fall Festival as co-chairs.
- *On-Going Campus Maintenance & Repairs* – The kitchen repair work is completed; and collapsed sewer lines and flooring are now being addressed.
- *God's Gift for 2008* – Nativity is now at 98% of its \$120,000 goal.
- *Stewardship Enhancement Days* – Fr. Kevin and Duane attended the seminar on November 8th. The topic of Stewardship of Time and Talent, not treasure, was discussed. Nativity does a very good job regarding stewardship, but the Pastoral Team will be doing a parish review of what we offer as a parish community.
- *Stewardship Council* – Welcomed five new people to this council. Michael O'Leary will serve as Chair and as Corporate Board Lay Treasurer. Mykal Nester will serve as the Corporate Board Lay Secretary and Liaison to the Pastoral Council.
- *Summary of Financials as of 10/31/2008* – Total Offertory is at 77.15% of calendar year to date; Total Income is at 73.24% and Total Expenditures at 76.26%. Duane provided a detailed "Summary of Support, Revenues & Expenses" for the General Fund for the Council's information.

Committee & Commission Reports

Buildings & Grounds Committee – Liaison Betty Hund had nothing to report.

Deanery Representative – Jean Hannig was absent, but had e-mailed the following reports:

- Diocesan Pastoral Council Summary Report for Deaneries from their 10/21/2008 meeting.
- Deanery II Pastoral Council Report for Deanery and Minutes from the 11/11/2008 meeting.

FCSN – Liaison Kevin Wolf reported that the FCSN held second readings for three policies that were approved by FCSN. School is in full swing at this time.

Health Advisory Commission – Liaison Joel Simons handed out the full minutes from the commission. He reported that the Health Fair was very successful, well planned, and well attended. Excellent booth participation and people enjoyed the interactive booths. 39 people participated in the blood drive. Because of the blood drive, they found out that many people from Nativity are regular blood donors.

Joel expanded on what Duane had reported regarding the Lend-A-Hand Project through the Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF). The project goal is to ease the financial burden of parish members who have a catastrophic medical need. The priests, parish nurse, Sr. Juliana, and Duane Koble will make the decision who will receive funds, and in what amount. With DMF's matching funds, Nativity has \$12,500 in this fund. DMF medical underwriters conduct all the administration for the project. It was noted that someone could apply directly to DMF if putting on a Spaghetti Benefit Fundraiser and DMF would cover the cost.

Joel reported that "Brunch and Learn Topics" would be held on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on January 24, February 28 and March 28. The topics will include:

- Ethics of the Sick and Dying
- Compassionate End of Life Care and Support
- Advantages of Planning for Funerals Ahead of Time

Liturgical Commission – Liaison Terri Dahl reported that the commission's Constitution and By-Laws had been updated last year, but membership terms were defined in more detail.

The times for Christmas Liturgies will remain the same as last year; 4:00 p.m. and a 10:30 p.m. "Midnight Mass". Discussion was held on how to handle the large numbers in attendance at the

4:00 p.m. Mass, as well as parking, but there is no solution since Nativity is the only church that holds a 4:00 p.m. Mass in the community and so many choose to attend.

Terri commented that everyone should have picked up their “Backpack of Grace” at Sunday Mass.

Parish Faith Life Commission – Liaison Greg Schmalz reported that by breaking into the two sub-committees; Evangelization and Faith Formation, the commission is getting more done and is more focused. The commission discussed encouraging participation of new members and the many Youth Ministry activities

Social Justice Commission – Liaison Bonnie Faller reported that the commission is waiting to hear if two grant requests will be approved or not. The collection at the Thanksgiving Day Mass will be for the Churches United for the Homeless. The Nativity Staff visited the Charism Center and was very impressed with the facility. They are looking forward to learning more about the center and what they do. One service they learned about was an after school program for kids and that they address cultural issues.

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

Stewardship Council – Trustee Jason Schwengler reported on the following:

- Mentioned the five new members that Duane Koble had reported on earlier and that Mykal Nester will be next year’s liaison to the Pastoral Council. The new members of the council spent a fair amount of time in general orientation.
- Offertory continues to be up, but down in the budgeted amount. Are hopeful that year-end budget goals will be reached.
- Interest earnings in the endowments are down due to the economy.
- Some adjustments were made to accounts to secure a slightly higher interest rate.
- The “New Earth” publication was discussed and how to pay for it. They are looking at more ways to promote this publication.
- 12% of pledges are paid into Nativity Anew II for a total of \$384,000 to date. \$80,000 remains to be paid for the school roof project.
- WoW and LinC will be holding a “Penny Wars” competition to assist individuals in Peru. The Stewardship Council agrees that this is an excellent way for the youth to continue their application of social justice principles.
- Although there was a low attendance at the Stewardship Enhancement Days due to inclement weather, the presentations were highly rated. As Duane had reported earlier, the emphasis was on time and talent vs. treasure.
- Consideration is being made to change the current Stewardship Council to be a Finance Council; and a new committee formed to focus on stewardship for time & talent ministries. This will be discussed in more detail at their January meeting.

More discussion followed regarding the cost of the New Earth publication. The cost of approximately \$11,000/year is based on the number of parish households; and since this list has been updated at Nativity, the cost is as accurate as it could be at this time. The New Earth is seen as a communication tool in the evangelization process. All parishes are a part of the New Earth and are encouraged to submit articles.

Youth Ministry – Liaison Chenise Nesler had to excuse herself early from the meeting, but had provided her report. The youth held Butterbraids and pizza fundraisers; and have been active in several service projects.

Recording Secretary Brenda Lang reviewed the changes she was aware of regarding the 2009 Pastoral Council member list.

- Brenda will contact Jean Hannig regarding the Deanery Representative.
- Mykal Nester will be the Corporate Lay Treasurer. Duane Koble will provide Mykal's contact information to Brenda.
- The Staff Representative liaison remains open for 2009.
- Joe Miranowski agreed to be the liaison from the Parish Faith Life Commission since Greg Schmalz will be Vice Chair.
- Joel Simons discerned to remain on the Pastoral Council for another three years, but as a Member at Large.
- Guest Ed Schwind discerned to join the Pastoral Council as a Member at Large.

Brenda Lang will provide an updated Pastoral Council list prior to January's meeting.

Announcements

Chairman Ken Jablonsky announced that the Pastoral Council holds a Christmas Social in December. Leon Senn volunteered to host the social at his home again, but will check with his spouse to determine if it will be in December or January.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lang

Recording Secretary