

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – January 22, 2008

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

Church Of The Nativity

Fr. Kevin Boucher led the Pastoral Council in Evening Prayer at 6:39 p.m.

The council meeting was then called to order pursuant to notice by Vice Chair Leon Senn at 6:56 p.m. and led the Council in Opening Prayer.

Present: Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Gary Luiten, Duane Koble, Terri Dahl, Bonnie Faller, Cindy Hutchins, Brenda Lang, Bev Nesler, Chenise Nesler, Greg Schmalz, Leon Senn, Joel Simons, Corporate Lay Secretary Jason Schwengler, and Deanery Representative Jean Hannig.

Absent: Marilyn Bjoralt, Betty Hund, Ken Jablonsky, Joe Miranowski, and Kevin Wolf.

Leon Senn introduced the new council members Chenise Nesler, Youth Ministry Liaison and Jason Schwengler, Corporate Lay Secretary & Stewardship Liaison. Each council member also introduced themselves.

Minutes from the 11/27/2007 Parish Council meeting were mailed prior to the meeting and accepted by unanimous consensus.

Old Business

- Leadership Vision Meeting Speaker – Fr. Kevin reported that Kathy Bourdon has arranged for a study evening on March 11, 2008, of parish leaders to review the booklet, “Growing into Life” by Joan Chittester. Subject will be on time and how to deal with time in a spiritual sense.
- Parish Social Gathering vs. Courtyard Party – Report was tabled until next month since Kevin Wolf was not present to report.

New Business

EASTER PARTY 2008 PROPOSAL – Sr. Juliana joined the meeting as Liaison to the Easter Party, to request the Pastoral’s Council’s opinion if Nativity should continue hosting the Easter Party. Frank LaLonde had prepared a detailed report that was previously mailed to the council. His report provided a history of the Easter Party, the challenges facing Nativity to continue this ministry, and a recommendation to pass this ministry onto United Church of Christ (UCC) in a new format. After discussing the report in more detail, the council, through unanimous consensus, agreed to discontinue hosting the Easter Party beginning in 2008. Duane Koble and Sr. Juliana will meet with UCC regarding this decision and will communicate this through the bulletin to the parish.

2008 PARISH BUDGET CONSENSUS – Duane Koble had e-mailed the 2008 Parish Budget prior to the meeting. He reported that budgeted income for 2007 was almost met at 99.92% and expenses were in line as budgeted. A reserve of \$110,000+ will be placed in a “Reserve Fund”. He reviewed specific expenses in the 2008 budget, various income sources, and that contingency dollars are budgeted in the event unexpected expenses would arise. Duane will provide an annual report to the parish community on back of the annual Stewardship Statements.

DISSOLUTION OF PLANNING & PROCESSING COMMITTEE – Duane Koble acted as proxy for Betty Hund who was absent. Duane reported that since the Feasibility Study has been completed and the Building Committee has taken over, he asked for consensus to dissolve the Planning & Processing Committee. Unanimous consensus was given.

NATIVITY ANEW II BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE – Refer to Duane Koble’s Director of Administration’s Report.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING REPORT – Fr. Kevin reported that the report outlines a capital campaign timeline, his role as pastor, potential names to recruit chairs will be determined, and contributions will be solicited. Duane Koble added that a secretary will be hired to handle the paperwork and communications. Once the campaign is completed, Nativity’s bookkeeper will track contributions.

Pastor’s Comments

Fr. Kevin handed out his report and commented on several areas that he has been involved with.

- Hosted God’s Gift of Appeal.
- Assisted with five reconciliation services during Advent.
- Continues to meet monthly with Nativity’s deacon candidate, Dave Opsahl.
- Working with seven engaged couples, as well as annulments and spiritual counseling. He has been asked to provide more individual spiritual counseling.
- Continues sacramental and spiritual care ministry at the local nursing homes and emergency calls at MeritCare.

Associate Pastor’s Report

Fr. Gary handed out his report that focused on the following:

1. Attended an ecumenical prayer service at First Baptist Church with Fr. Kevin and Sr. Juliana in honor of Christian Unity Week. Four churches participated and Fr. Kevin spoke at the service. Nativity will host the event next year.
2. Working on a list with Sister Juliana and Judy Schwinghammer of parishioners in nursing facilities in the metro area to plan future visits. Please contact Fr. Gary if you know of someone in facilities other than ManorCare or the Villa.
3. Six people were received into the church on January 12th and are starting the period of Mystagoga. Four adults will receive the Rite of Welcoming and will be received into Full Communion on April 5th and one or two people will be baptized at Easter Vigil. Jean Hannig provided a detailed explanation of the various rites for the council’s information.
4. What type of raffle to have for the Fall Festival is still under discussion.

Director of Administration’s Report

Duane Koble reported on the following topics:

- Christmas Party –The party was a huge success. But new co-chairs are needed to rotate the responsibility of chairing this event. Bill Bosch and Angie Olson would be willing to mentor couples in a three-year rotation. Corporate sponsors were noted as key in making this party happen. Many thanks to all involved in this celebration.
- Endowments are in place with the Diocese to be applied towards Social Justice ministry and educational purposes. A grant program is in place internally to provide a check & balance for the program.

- Parish Plant Maintenance has included replacing circulating pumps, electrical improvements, kitchen faucets replaced, dishwasher de-limed, appliances cleaned, and installation of new basketball hoops and padding in the gym.
- Furniture has been added to the Nazareth Room as part of the hospitality for this room.
- Feasibility Study Report provided by Mike Overby was handed out to the council members. Purposes of the study were outlined in the report.
- God's Gift of Appeal reached 105% of Goal. Same Parish Goal of \$120,000 has been set for 2008.
- Appraised property values of Nativity facilities were completed. Catholic Mutual Insurance has agreed to phase in valuation increases over a three-year period. We are in our second year.
- An Asbestos School Litigation Settlement for our Nativity School will be applied against a loan with FCSN.
- Thank You to Leon & Laurie Senn for hosting the Parish Council Christmas Party at their home.

Jason Schwengler reported that the Capital Campaign target is \$3.5 million and they are working with the architect to stay within this target. Nativity's first capital campaign was just under \$2 million and used to payoff debt and improvements. The first capital campaign brought an awareness to parishioners about needed improvements.

Committee Reports

Stewardship – Jason Schwengler stated that he would e-mail a report at a later date. May have a new member to this council. A letter to the parish will review the status of Nativity's budget. Some funds were transferred to a reserve fund at a higher interest rate. Although the budget reflected an 8%-9% increase, they have achieved a balanced budget. Fr. Kevin added that consensus was reached to start the roof project for the school and church now, rather than later. Are working with the Diocese to secure bids to complete the project this summer. The \$240,000 cost for the roof project will be paid from the building fund which has sufficient funds. Fr. Kevin's recommendation to open a new checkbook for the Capital Campaign instead of using the general fund checkbook, received consensus agreement.

Liturgy – Terri Dahl reported that the committee has held two meetings to review and revise the constitution. Have two new members; Paul Kochmann and Judy Petermann. The Mary & Jesus sculpture has been delayed because the sculptor has been ill.

Social Justice – Bonnie Faller reported that Alex Rheault was introduced as the representative from LinC to this committee. Various memberships and fees were reviewed and decision was made to continue with the current roster of memberships. The JustFaith Program was discussed and determined that this program was a bit costly. Global warming was discussed and the LinC group will be asked for ideas on how they can help with the global warming issue. Bonnie noted that in seven years, Nativity will recoup the \$90,000 cost for geo-thermal in the new addition. She also asked the council to consider donating to one of the two bicycling teams raising funds for Habitat for Humanity.

Staff Representative - Cindy Hutchins noted that local Christian groups will be performing this coming Saturday at NDSU Festival Hall for a Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser. She stated that school parents have expressed concerns about the Nativity Parking Lot on school mornings when dropping off their children. She is looking for a person to work for one-half hour to monitor and control this morning traffic from 7:40 a.m to 8:10 a.m.

Youth Ministry - Chenise Nesler stated that she was chosen as the new Youth Liaison to the Pastoral Council. The youth have several fundraisers planned for their Peru trip that includes a spaghetti dinner, Retreats for Peru, and Mardi Gras talent show. She handed out flyers to advertise their Peruvian Dinner fundraiser scheduled for March 2nd.

Parish Faith Life Commission – Greg Schmalz reported that the All Parish Faith Festival is “Walk On” and scheduled for January 30, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Target audience is all age groups. The Commission is still in discussion regarding the 2008-2009 Mission, who could present, and maybe a different presentation that would reach a larger age group. Evangelization is the focus through a spaghetti dinner scheduled for January 23, 2008.

52 children went through reconciliation and 54 third-graders are preparing for their First Eucharist. Greg noted that Fr. Larry Richards can be heard on 1280 AM radio.

Health Advisory – Joel Simons deferred until February’s meeting to report.

FCSN Council – No report provided as liaison, Kevin Wolf, was absent.

Deanery Report – Jean Hannig reported that the last meeting was held on 11/05/2007 and the following issues were discussed that had been brought forward from the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

- All parishes’ accounting systems have been reviewed and a uniform accounting system was created. Each parish was sent recommended changes to be implemented in their accounting system. Nativity had minimal changes.
- Bishop Aquila is encouraging a project to combat pornography which he has identified as a serious problem in our society. No plan is in place at this time, but will be addressed at a later date.
- Attendance at Faith Formation programs is a concern after a child has received the sacrament of confirmation in third grade, as a decrease in attendance is noted in fourth grade. All parents need to urge their children to continue faith formation through all their school years.
- Next Deanery meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2008.

Jean Hannig noted that her duty as Deanery Representative is to bring any concerns or topics from our parish to the Deanery for discussion. Nativity Pastoral Council members had open discussion on several issues. Fr. Kevin Boucher stated that faith formation attendance is related directly to church attendance. Discussion followed on how to reach the unregistered and unchurched. Mentoring program and re-instituting the welcoming group (which includes visiting homes) were suggested.

Announcements

Vice Chair Leon Senn announced that Bonnie Faller and her late husband, Jim Faller, will be inducted into the Shanley Hall of Fame on Saturday, February 2, 2008, at the Expressway Inn after the game. Please plan to attend between 6:00-7:00 p.m.

There being no further New Business, Vice Chair Leon Senn led the Council in Closing Prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lang

Recording Secretary