

## **NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday –November 23, 2010

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

At 6:32 p.m., Chairman Leon Senn called the meeting to order, pursuant to notice and opened in prayer.

### **Council Members Present:**

Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Tom Feltman, Duane Koble, Laura Alderman, Dale Craft, Bonnie Faller, Ken Jablonsky, Brenda Lang, Joe Miranowski, Greg Schmalz, Leon Senn, Lisa Suda, Corporate Secretary Mykal Sonsteli and Corporate Treasurer Michael O'Leary

**Council Members Absent:** Betty Hund, Scott Krabbenhoft, Wendy Paulson and Ed Schwind

**Guests:** Bev Nesler

Chairman Leon Senn announced an Agenda change to accommodate Fr. Kevin's Evening Prayer schedule.

### **2010 Mass Census**

Fr. Kevin handed out a summary of the October 2010 Mass Census for Nativity. Data was broken out by total number of households, age, gender, median household income and median home value. The report reflects that attendance is declining each year since 2007. A person can review all the data tabulated on the Diocese and information from the Census Bureau and IRS by searching "Fargo Parish Study" on the Diocesan website. From part of the data, Fr. Kevin gleaned that there are 12 different neighborhoods that make up the Nativity boundaries. The information will be broken out and discussed in more detail by the Pastoral Council at the January meeting.

Teamworks, who does consulting, has also studied all the Catholic schools in rural areas and will be providing "what if" scenarios for the Pastoral council to also discuss further.

### **Fall Festival Recap**

Co-Chair Bev Nesler joined the meeting, handed out an income/expense report, and reported on the final figures from the Fall Festival. Net profit from the Fall Festival was \$11,737.42. Profit was down from the prior year; possibly due to so many people still at the lake because of good weather.

Plans for the 2011 Fall Festival include:

- The Fall Festival Committee decided to conduct a one-question survey about the raffle ticket. The survey will be included in the January or February bulletin and the Voice.
- Moving the Fall Festival date to Sunday-November 6<sup>th</sup> (first Sunday of the month), even though it is the opener for hunting season.
- Hold the Festival from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Keep the Pork Loin Dinner as Nativity's "signature meal".

A Children's Raffle was suggested. Bev noted that we did try a "Dollar Chance Table" for a couple of years.

The Pastoral Council then broke for Evening Prayer in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Chairman Leon Senn noted that Minutes from the 10/26/2010 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting. There being no changes, the minutes were accepted as written by unanimous consensus.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Nativity Anew II & Cuneen Campaign Updates**

Duane Koble reported that Nativity Anew II is currently at \$2.3M.

The Cuneen Campaign has 2-3 weeks left of a 12-week period. One third of the parish has responded to date. An additional \$4,000 has been pledged as compared to last year and many parishioners have agreed to donate via credit card or ACH. Duane will provide an update again at the January Pastoral Council meeting. You can still make your commitment if you have not done so already.

**Other Old Business** – No other old business to report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Nativity's Jubilee Planning Update**

- Duane Koble reported on the Committee's 6th meeting held on 11/15/2010.
- The Parish's Kick-off Dinner is scheduled for January 27, 2011.
- Duane mentioned that Ornaments are still available for sale at \$10.00 as a keepsake; as well as notecards.
- Pictorial Directory: Hopefully all Council members have had their picture taken. Pictures have gone very well for a parish this size.
- Parish Mission is being scheduled before Ash Wednesday and Fr. Kevin will be scheduling a speaker.

### **Liaison Positions**

#### **1. Liaisons reported on filling open positions within their respective committee or commission –**

- a. Betty Hund reported that the Health Advisory Committee had filled 6 or 7 positions
- b. Ken Jablonsky reported that Social Justice Commission had filled all their open positions
- c. Lisa Suda reported that the Liturgical Commission still needed two members
- d. Jean Hannig had been confirmed that she would continue as Deanery Representative from Nativity
- e. Fr. Kevin confirmed that Corporate Lay Secretary Mykal Sonsteli and Corporate Lay Treasurer Mike O'Leary would continue in their respective positions
- f. Leon Senn reported that the Pastoral Council still needs two members

Leon reviewed the various Liaison Positions for the Pastoral Council. Consensus was reached by the council members to act as liaison for the following:

- Parish Faith Life Liaison Commission – Dale Craft
- Liturgical Commission – Lisa Suda
- Buildings & Grounds Committee - Bonnie Faller

Chairman Leon Senn stated he would contact Wendy Paulson and Ed Schwind regarding the following three open liaison positions:

Social Justice Commission  
Health Advisory Commission  
Adult Youth Ministry Advisory

**2. Pastoral Council Christmas Social-Date & Location –**

Duane Koble had a note from Betty Hund that she and Morris had offered to host the social at their home. Date to be determined after Christmas. Leon will follow up with Betty Hund and will e-mail the council members.

**Other New Business** – No other new business to report.

**Pastor's Comments**

- Fr. Kevin was not available as he had to leave the meeting after Evening Prayer. Leon Senn noted that the software for the parishes will be delayed until Duane Koble and Renelda Hushka have provided their input to Fr. Kevin to take back to the Diocese before implementing this software.

Chairman Leon Senn needed to leave the meeting at 8:20 p.m.; therefore, Vice Chair Greg Schmalz led the remainder of the meeting.

**Associate Pastor's Comments:**

Fr. Tom reported on the Befrienders Ministry and transition that it has gone through when Sr. Juliana retired on 12/31/2009 and Sr. Sharon was hired March 2010. Currently there are 16 befrienders.

- Fr. Tom outlined the qualifications of a Befriender, emphasizing key characteristics of being an active listener, maintain a healthy boundary in the relationship, express feelings without judgment or sit quietly and maintain confidentiality. Noted only half of the 16 Befrienders attend meetings.
- Fr. Tom would like the council members to refer 1-5 people to him who are good listeners, have leadership skills and are comfortable with their own spirituality. Refer someone you know to Fr. Tom who has these characteristics.
- They are also looking for Befriender leaders. The leadership team is Sr. Sharon and Naomi West and more leaders are needed. This is a lay driven ecumenical ministry with support from ministry.
- Outlined the Program Leader Description.
- There is an Administrator and trainer for Befrienders. The Facilitator supervises all of the Befrienders and Sr. Sharon is the Program Supervisor. The Program Leader works a 20-hour week, which can be divided between three people. They also have speakers at their meetings.
- Being a Befriender is a commitment. Training is a week long in the Cities or in Fargo.
- This is a ministry that needs to continue and is supported by the Associate Pastor. New Befrienders and leaders are needed within the program.
- This is an excellent ministry, but not as well known. It is also a very confidential ministry. Greg Schmalz commented that he has been a Befriender and supports the experience. You gain as much, if not more than the Befriendee. It is a mutual benefit for all involved and a person learns more than you realize.
- The next Befriender meeting is Thursday-December 16<sup>th</sup>. Send an email to Fr. Tom with names prior to that date if you know someone who may consider being a Befriender.

- They need people who are available to conduct visits as a Befriender. Meeting with someone is informal and done every two weeks; and is an outreach of the pastoral staff.

Kathy Bourdon gave Fr. Tom a list of the groups leading the Longing for the Holy that he shared with the council.

Faith Formation – Confirmation for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Have four young people who will participate in a regional confirmation at Holy Spirit this coming Sunday that Fr. Tom will attend.

### **Stewardship Council Report:**

- Corporate Secretary Mykal Sonstelie noted that the Offertory collection in October was good. Mykal reinforced the amount of excellent information there is to review from the Parish Study that Fr. Kevin spoke about at the beginning of the meeting.

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

Duane Koble highlighted the following from his report:

- In the past two weeks, the office sent the second report on the review of the Diocesan Seminary. Keep watch for these newsletters with updates. Any wisdom you have for the group; get on the website and share your ideas.
- Fr. Tom mentioned that there has been discussion about converting the seminary to a retirement home for priests. Duane added that a lot of energy has been put into this study, so please go to the website.
- Duane spoke about how important security is for a campus this size. Additional “yard” lights have been added to improve the campus.
- Before the holidays, Fritz Electric will replace lights in the worship space. This is a major undertaking that is done once a year.
- Dates for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration events were outlined by month in the report. Put these on your calendar.
- The Communications Internship has concluded and Duane shared the interns’ comments with the council in his report. This is futuristic to bring young people into the church to pursue their “calling”. Duane plans to encourage this servant leadership in the future.
- This will be Nativity’s 41<sup>st</sup> Christmas Eve Dinner. Nativity continues to struggle with leadership for this ministry that is important to the community and must continue. They have two people who will lead this ministry for one more year. No one has come forward presently. The question remains, “What should be done?” This is the Pastoral Council’s issue to address; and Duane requested the Council’s direction on what to do and where to turn? Duane emphasized that the time commitment for the Dinner is not huge; approx 40 hours for this one time commitment. Training is provided; there are plenty of volunteers who do the work, and it only takes the four Sundays of Advent to organize the dinner. This issue will be revisited at every upcoming meeting.
- The rest of Duane’s report was self-explanatory.

Duane thanked the council for their feedback regarding the Christmas Eve Dinner. He commented that raising money for the dinner is not the problem; but eliminating the fear factor that someone may “think” it is too big of a job when there is plenty of help to get it done.

## **Committee & Commission Reports**

**Buildings & Grounds Committee** – Liaison Bonnie Faller had no report, as the committee had not met.

**Deanery Representative** – No report from Jean Hannig.

**FCSN** – Liaison Laura Alderman reported the speaker at their meeting suggested running some summer camps at the school outside of sports, such as computer. Would be a way to use the space during summer and bring in additional income.

The Greet Sneakers program was started at Shanley. For every pound of tennis shoes, they receive \$0.50 or \$0.25 cents for other shoes. The shoes are sorted and recycled to Third World countries. This is new since mid-November and fits the mission of FCSN.

FCSN continues to conduct policy work. Todd Mikkelsen continues to work with the capital campaign.

TRIP is going well and was well received this past weekend and at Parent-Teacher Conferences. There is still a need to continue to explain what TRIP is all about through more bulletin articles, on the website, electronic VOICE and hardcover VOICE. Laura will follow up on communicating about this new program.

**Health Advisory Commission** – Liaison Betty Hund was absent and had provided her report by e-mail. They had an excellent turnout at the last brunch.

**Liturgical Commission** – Liaison Lisa Suda reported that commercials, arts & environment, book covers, new Jubilee song, music, and the Children's Liturgy are going well.

**Parish Faith Life Commission** – Liaison Joe Miranowski reported that no meeting was held in November.

**Social Justice Commission** – Liaison Ken Jablonsky reported that the Bottle Cap Recycling Project has been going very well and has been started by the Presentation Sisters. The Thanksgiving offering will be shared with the Stepping Stones Resource Center and the Giving and Learning Program. Ken encouraged council members to try the Fair Trade Coffee.

**Youth Ministry** – Liaison Scott Krabbenhoft was absent. Greg reviewed Scott's email report that outlined the Junior and Senior Ministry schedules.

- Jr. High Youth Ministry – Working with the Eucharist Curriculum and planning a ski trip.
- Sr. High Youth Ministry – Working with the Theology of the Body series.

As noted earlier, Leon Senn will contact parents to potentially serve on the Pastoral Council as the Adult Youth Ministry Liaison.

## **Announcements**

Vice Chair Greg Schmalz announced that the next Pastoral Council will meet on Tuesday – January 25, 2011.

There being no further business, Greg Schmalz led the Council in closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Brenda Lang*

Recording Secretary  
Nativity Pastoral Council