

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – January 25, 2011

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

Wendy Paulson led the Pastoral Council members in Evening Prayer at 6:33 p.m.

Council Members Present:

Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Tom Feltman, Duane Koble, Laura Alderman, Dale Craft, Bonnie Faller, Brenda Lang, Wendy Paulson, Greg Schmalz, Don Schott, Ed Schwind, Leon Senn, Lisa Suda, Corporate Secretary Mykal Sonstelie and Corporate Treasurer Michael O'Leary.

Council Members Absent: Scott Krabbenhoft, Joe Miranowski and Anne Moynihan.

Chairman Greg Schmalz called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m., pursuant to notice. Greg introduced new members, Don Schott, and Anne Moynihan who was absent.

Minutes from the 11/23/2010 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting and accepted by unanimous consensus.

OLD BUSINESS

Open Liaison Positions on Pastoral Council

Greg noted that the two Pastoral Council positions were filled; and that the Council had three open liaison positions for the Social Justice Commission, Health Advisory Commission and Adult Youth Ministry.

The following council members volunteered to act as Liaison:

- Wendy Paulson - Health Advisory Commission
- Ed Schwind - Social Justice Commission
- Leon Senn - Adult Youth Ministry Liaison.

Other Commissions, Councils & Committees

Duane stated that positions in all commissions, councils and committees were filled; except for the Liturgical Commission. Lisa Suda will keep the Pastoral Council updated.

Nativity Anew II & Cunneen Campaign Updates

Duane reported that the Diocese had asked all parishes to conduct the Cunneen Campaign, which has been completed. Overall the results were good with approximately a 15% increase in offering to meet the weekly \$14,500 needed to meet all of Nativity's ministries. There was confusion on how to complete the Pledge card and therefore, the results were potentially inflated. The Campaign did succeed in promoting stewardship awareness and many parishioners moved to ACH giving. It was recognized that five letters was probably more than needed for the campaign and that the letters could be rewritten to be more personable. The parish could probably conduct this type of campaign in the future at less cost, keeping in mind that it would require a full time person for six weeks to work the campaign.

Nativity's Jubilee Planning Update

Duane reported that Nativity's 50th Anniversary Dinner is on Thursday, January 27th at the Fargo Holiday Inn with Social at 5:00 p.m. and Dinner at 6:30 p.m. At least 300 tickets were sold and

many of Nativity's former pastors and associates will be attending. The event is an opportunity to be community to one another.

Plan to attend the theatre production "Flanagan's Wake" on February 25-27 as the 50th Anniversary Celebration continues.

Other Old Business

Recording Secretary Brenda Lang updated the Attendance Record for those who had attended the Christmas Social. A master membership list was passed around for council members to verify their contact information and make any changes. Brenda will e-mail all council members an updated membership list.

NEW BUSINESS

Study for Diocese of Fargo

Fr. Kevin reported that Teamworks International, Inc. had completed an extensive study of demographic, economic, parish and Catholic schools in the Fargo Metro area. Teamworks recommended proposal was outlined in a newsletter handed out at Masses on January 15-16. If you did not secure this newsletter, you may find it on the diocesan website at www.fargodiocese.org/review as well as the data that was secured. The proposal recommends:

1. That parish boundaries be refined that would involve the closing, combining or relocation of some parishes; and
2. That all parishes participate in the Catholic school system subsidy at a common percentage of budget; transitioning to that point over time.

Fr. Kevin reviewed the data and proposal in detail with the Council and the potential impact to the Church of the Nativity. The Nativity Anew II Campaign currently has a balance of \$2.4M, short by \$1M of goal. The building committee will need to take this study into consideration when asked to meet and revise the building plan and set a new timeline for building.

FCSN Liaison Report

Laura Alderman needed to leave early. She had nothing further to add to her report provided by e-mail.

Article Discussion – The Two Keys to Stewardship Formation

Due to time constraints, this article discussion was tabled for the February council meeting.

Other

Brenda Lang will adjust the Hospitality Assignments on the 2011 Meeting Schedule since no snacks were provided for this meeting; and will e-mail the revised schedule to the council members.

Pastor's Comments

Fr. Kevin had no further comments to his report which summarized the ministries in his portfolio.

Associate Pastor's Comments

Fr. Tom reported that a Befrienders Meeting was held on January 20th and noted the need for more parishioners to assist in this ministry. Speakers are scheduled to address specific topics to assist Befrienders. Two people will be scheduled to speak at the liturgies about the Befrienders Ministry. Some parishioners have expressed an interest to train as a Befrienders leader. Past Befrienders will also be contacted to gauge their interest in this ministry.

Stewardship Council Report

Corporate Lay Treasurer Michael O'Leary reported on Mykal Sonstelie's behalf since he had attended the Stewardship Council meeting.

- The 2010 budget increase was due to an increase in ACH and credit card giving. With the collections in December, adjusting for Anew II income, releasing \$60,000 from the General Reserve Fund and the staff containing expenses throughout the year, the 2010 budget was kept in balance.
- Fourth Quarter earnings for the Catholic Development Foundation were near \$19,000. All funds are above their permanently endowed amount. The council will discuss how to handle the excess funds at a future meeting.
- Nativity Anew II Pledge balance is near \$2.3M as noted earlier. Only \$1,500 was written off in December, which supports the fact that collection activity has been good. The current \$3.5M plan will need to be revisited as also noted before.
- The 2011 Budget was reviewed by the Stewardship Council, noting that \$14,500/week to meet budget is not an increase from the prior year. Snow removal has gone over budget.

Director of Administration's Report

Duane Koble highlighted the following from his report:

- December presented a challenge for campus maintenance which is a constant process in keeping up with maintenance and repairs.
- The campus' computer technology has been updated with a new server. The process went smoothly due to the assistance of the Technology Committee.
- Nativity's 2010 God's Gift Appeal reached 88% of the \$120,000 set goal. Nativity's 2011 goal has been set at \$123,600. The Diocese of Fargo as a whole reached 96% of the 2010 goal to fund 44 different ministries that serves all parishes.
- Duane restated that Nativity ended the 2010 year in the black with the intention to payback what was borrowed from the general reserve fund. An annual report will be provided to the parish in the bulletin.
- A Stewardship Committee is being formed to look at two components.
- Fr. Kevin shared that Fr. Don Leiphon will be the Lenten mission speaker in March. Unfortunately, the Monday night that this was scheduled for is the same night as the First Choice Clinic event. Fr. Leiphon will speak at all Masses and a Saturday presentation may be scheduled. Fr. Leiphon was given the book "Longing for the Holy" and advised on the other activities being held at Nativity.
- Fr. Kevin held a straw poll regarding the inserts in the bulletin these past two weeks and questioned how many council members had read these. The inserts are focused on helping parishioners to have a steward's heart; and to be grateful to God for what you are able to do for Him, because stewardship is about your personal relationship with God.

Committee & Commission Reports

Buildings & Grounds Committee – Liaison Bonnie Fallor had no report.

Deanery Representative – No report. The new members on the Pastoral Council would be interested in meeting Jean Hannig who represents Nativity at the Deanery level, as the question was asked regarding what her role is as the Deanery Representative.

Fr. Kevin explained that there are eight deaneries within the diocese and that they act as a communication tool of the parishes to the diocesan level. They did not have this process five years ago. Jean attends four deanery meetings each year and brings forward ideas, cares, and concerns of the diocese to the Bishop. The Bishop meets with the Deanery Pastoral Council and brings information back to the local deanery council meetings. Jean is the Deanery Representative for the Diocesan Council and attends their two meetings a year for a total of six meetings that Jean Hannig attends outside of the parish.

Health Advisory Commission – No report provided as a liaison from the Pastoral Council had not been selected. The Pastoral Council's new liaison, Wendy Paulson, will follow up for next month's meeting.

Liturgical Commission – Liaison Lisa Suda had no report since their meeting had been cancelled.

Parish Faith Life Commission – Liaison Dale Craft had e-mailed the 12/07/2010 minutes to the Pastoral Council and noted the following:

- The Children's Liturgy of the Word has had 25-28 children in attendance.
- Excellent turnout for the St. Nicholas Collection.
- Longing for the Holy has two groups meeting on Sunday and Wednesday who meet at the church. There are nearly another 100 people meeting outside the church.
- Dale participated in the Faith Formation Subcommittee meeting where discussion was held on the budget shortfall in enrollment fees; but there was no deficit at year end as expenses were less than originally budgeted.
- The Youth group has been busy with various activities being scheduled. Dale noted that the Youth Director Jordan Buchhorn is looking for a sound system for the Mardi Gras event on March 9th. Ed Schwind volunteered that he had a sound system he would provide for the event. Fr. Kevin will inform Jordan.
- Fr. Kevin noted a correction in the Parish Faith Life Commission minutes regarding the date of the Youth's Mission Trip. It is scheduled for July 16-24, 2011 and not June.
- Jordan is searching for Co-Directors for the 2011 Vacation Bible School program.

Discussion followed by Pastoral Council members regarding the decreased numbers of children participating in Faith Formation since confirmation was moved to a younger age. Fr. Kevin noted that 3,000 people do not attend church at Nativity. Ten years ago when Nativity had 1900 families, 80% of our children were involved. Participation by upper grade students is very poor at approximately 8%. This trend also correlates to our children's Sunday liturgy attendance. 45% of elementary age children attend; but only 26% of High School age children are at church on Sundays.

Children's involvement in church is a nationwide issue. Theology is good, but we still need to touch hearts. Our youth need to be challenged.

Social Justice Commission – Since there was no Liaison for this commission, no report was available at the time of the meeting.

Youth Ministry – Scott Krabbenhoft provided his report by email which outlined the Jr. High ministry that is focusing on The Eucharist curriculum; and the Sr. High ministry on Theology of the Body. The speaker on Body Image was very well received by the youth. Refer to Scott's report for more details.

Duane noted that several meetings are being scheduled in early February that will speak to the parish study in more detail. He encouraged the pastoral council members to check those dates and plan to attend. Chairman Greg Schmalz also encouraged attendance by the Pastoral Council at these meetings and the Jubilee Dinner on January 27th.

Leon Senn stated that he will not be able to attend the February Pastoral Council meeting; and that he would work with Laura Alderman to assure that Hospitality is taken care of in his absence.

Announcements

Chairman Greg Schmalz announced that the next Pastoral Council meeting would be held on Tuesday-February 22, 2011.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lang

Recording Secretary