

## NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – January 26, 2010

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

At 6:35 p.m., Chairman Leon Senn led the Pastoral Council in Evening Prayer.

### **Council Members Present:**

Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Gary Luiten, Duane Koble, Laura Alderman, Bonnie Faller, Ken Jablonsky, Brenda Lang, Joe Miranowski, Chenise Nesler, Greg Schmalz, Leon Senn, Ed Schwind and Corporate Secretary Mykal Nester.

**Council Members Absent:** Betty Hund, Lisa Suda and Corporate Treasurer Michael O’Leary.

Chairman Leon Senn called the meeting to order, pursuant to notice.

Fr. Kevin noted that since Evening Prayer is already conducted prior to meetings, he recommended that the “Prayer for Meetings” be prayed only during the Advent and Easter Season. The council agreed by consensus to make this change.

Laura Alderman was welcomed to the Parish Council as the FCSN Council liaison. Chairman Leon Senn then asked each council member to introduce themselves.

Minutes from the 11/24/2009 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting and accepted by unanimous consensus.

### **Old Business**

*Nativity Anew II / Capital Campaign Project* – Fr. Kevin had nothing to report at this time.

*Nativity Long Range Plan* – Fr. Kevin had nothing to report at this time.

### **New Business**

*Article Discussion* – “Focus on talents, renew your parish” by Leisa Anslinger. Duane noted that the article discussed a call to leadership in our community and asked how the article spoke to the council members when they read the article? It was pointed out that the article says that stewardship goes beyond financial, but can also include a person’s time & talents in other areas. Everyone has a talent that can be brought forth; so how can we incorporate this into our parish community to help develop leadership at another level? At Duane’s request for volunteers to brainstorm and bring recommendations to the Pastoral Council; Greg Schmalz, Joe Miranowski, Laura Alderman and Bonnie Faller volunteered to meet. Duane offered the resources he has that they can utilize. The target date to implement this will be prior to when Discernment Sunday is scheduled.

*Open Positions on Pastoral Council for 2010* – Recording Secretary Brenda Lang handed out a new membership list for the council member’s binders. Leon noted that there are two Pastoral Council openings to be filled to meet the required 11 members for this council; the Youth Minister Liaison and Member-at-Large position.

*Lenten 2010 Retreat and/or Evenings of Reflections* – Fr. Kevin stated that the following events are being scheduled:

- The leadership of the church will be invited to a Parish Read on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The reflection will be on the booklet, “Way of the Cross Gateway to Resurrection” which is the same

booklet that was to be used last year for the Parish Read, but was cancelled due to the flood.

- A family-oriented evening will be scheduled to focus on communication within the family to build stronger families.
- Stations of the Cross
- Regular liturgies
- Knights of Columbus will serve dinners
- Tuesday evening prayer in the Chapel

Second Reading of Revisions to By-Laws – Chairman Leon Senn conducted the Second Reading of the recommended amendments that were outlined and discussed at the November 2009 meeting. Leon allowed time for the members to review the by-laws, then he discussed each Article separately and the recommended changes. No further changes were recommended; therefore, the revisions were accepted by unanimous consensus. The Recording Secretary will provide a final revised copy to the members by e-mail.

Second Reading of Revisions to the Constitution - Chairman Leon Senn conducted the Second Reading of the recommended amendments that were outlined and discussed at the November 2009 meeting. Leon again allowed time for the members to review the constitution, then discussed each Article separately and the recommended changes.

In Article IV – Section 3, it was recommended to replace the word “selected” with “discerned” to be in line with the discernment process now used in the church instead of elections. There was consensus by the members to add this revision. As there were no further revisions than the one noted, the remainder of the revisions were accepted by unanimous consensus. The Recording Secretary will provide a final revised copy to the members by e-mail. Chairman Leon Senn said that as we move forward, changes would be tracked so there is an understanding why the changes were made.

Nativity's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Update – Fr. Kevin reported that nothing would happen until the Director of Worship position is filled; which will occur within the next month.

Youth Ministry – Since Liaison Chenise Nesler needed to leave, she provided her report prior to the break. She reported that the youth had held their ski trip on January 18th. WOW and LinC have been brainstorming ways to help the people in Haiti. LinC has decided to sponsor a fast with Shanley's involvement on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chenise spoke highly about Holy Thunder. LinC members will be attending this event in the next two months. The youth will conduct a service project on February 10<sup>th</sup> at the Churches United. February 20<sup>th</sup> is a tubing trip to Andes Tower Hills. Reminder that the Spaghetti dinner at Nativity is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Pastor's Comments**

Fr. Kevin handed out his report as unable to e-mail due to a power outage. Father stated that he officiated for six funerals and a wedding in December & January. Five of those funerals were in an 8-day time period. Four weddings are scheduled in 2010. Fr. Kevin is on the board of the Holy Cross Cemetery Association. It was reported that the Capital Improvement Campaign is completed, but the monetary goal was not reached. They hope that the 1% each parish is being assessed of their Sunday Offering Subsidy will no longer be needed to operate the cemetery.

In spite of the stormy weather at Christmas, the choir did an excellent job under the leadership of Alicia Albrecht for the Christmas Masses. Four candidates will be interviewed for the liturgy position. Jean Wilhelmi will assist during Lent and Easter until this position is filled. The ecumenical prayer service for Church Unity was postponed last Sunday due to weather and will be rescheduled.

### **Associate Pastor's Comments**

Fr. Gary reported on his portfolio. One funeral was for Marlene Daul who was very active in one of his ministries as head shepherding couple, so he is looking for more couples in this area. They are still in the process of filling the Pastoral Minister and Parish Nurse positions due to the retirement of Sr. Juliana and Judy Schwinghammer. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, five baptized adults were brought into full communion into the church.

### **Stewardship Council Report**

- Corporate Lay Secretary Mykal Nester reported a \$10,000 loss at year end as Offertory income was down by 6%. The staff has been working to reduce expenses.
- God's Gift of Appeal came in 5% short of goal as parishioner participation was also down from 32% in 2008 to 29% in 2009. The 2010 goal has been increased \$2,000 from 2009 and an increased goal for parishioner participation. Fr. Kevin explained the formula and four factors in that formula for why the 2010 goal was increased for all parishes.
- Budget plan for 2010 includes an expectation for an increase in income of approximately 8%.
- Several known upcoming expense increases were included in the Budget. The Stewardship Council will monitor the tight budget throughout the year.
- Question was raised about the Diocesan Stewardship Campaign. Duane explained that every parish in the Diocese would be looking at addressing their parish's stewardship through an Offertory Campaign. A Company will be brought in to run this campaign in the fall. Usually they see an average of 20% increase when this type of campaign is conducted.

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

Duane Koble highlighted the following from his report:

- The Nativity/Olivet Christmas Party was a grand success from all the support from the parish community, even though it was stormy and cold.
- Maintenance Issues – Have not had any major breakdowns during this cold weather. Maintenance completed in the past two months was outlined in the report. With the power failure yesterday, a couple of heating pumps had stopped and were started again. The computer server was also affected.
- The “Brunch & Learn” workshop scheduled last Saturday will be rescheduled on February 27<sup>th</sup> due to the weather. Fr. Gary will be one of the guest speakers to share his story.
- Nativity Youth is holding their annual Spaghetti Dinner on January 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The Catholic Mutual Relief Society of America agency covers property on the campus, using replacement cost.
- Duane extended a “thank you” to Ed Schwind for hosting the Council's Christmas Party.
- A marriage enrichment gathering called “Chuckles and Chocolate” is being held on Thursdays in January and February.
- Regarding stewardship, Duane said that there are two questions the Diocese asks each parish every year, to identify where we have been and where we are going. 1) How many

adults in the parish should be regular contributors, and 2) how many adult parishioners gave a total of \$1.00 or more to the parish last year.

- Regarding the financial report, “Total Expenses” include the cost of the Offertory Campaign and repairing the roof. Nativity Anew II currently has \$1,050,000 in cash and another \$1M still short of goal after 1½ years into the campaign. There will be interest earnings on what has been collected to date. Duane explained what is included in “Other Administrative Expenses”; i.e. monies for fixed expenses for offices, supplies, postage, telephone, utilities, funds for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and the expense for the Offertory Campaign. Fr. Kevin stated that the Offertory Campaign will be held in September and is an immediate payback when people should start increasing their offertory. He did note that if Nativity does not have a \$16,000 increase for the year, then we are not charged for the cost of the campaign.
- Fr. Kevin said the FCSN school subsidy in this past year’s budget was \$380,000, but with the decrease in Sunday Offering, not as much was collected and are running in the deficit. Nativity’s payment to FCSN will be down by \$27,000 since it is based on 50% of the previous year’s offertory, which was down.
- FCSN is discussing a 6% tuition increase.

### **Committee & Commission Reports**

*Buildings & Grounds Committee* – Liaison Bonnie Faller had nothing to report at this time.

*Deanery Representative* – Jean Hannig did not provide a report at this time.

*FCSN* – Liaison Laura Alderman provided the January and November minutes from this council. A 6% tuition increase is being finalized. New registration forms will be mailed the beginning of February with a March deadline.

Catholic Schools Week starts this next Sunday. Laura will be speaking at the Masses and a video will be shown to those interested. Open Houses will be held at the Elementary, Middle & High Schools. February 5<sup>th</sup> is the date for the School Carnival. Please plan to attend.

The capital campaign is in process and the auction is scheduled in April.

In response to a question about the Second Language Program, Laura explained that the Amity Institute offers languages at the elementary school (K-5) level where children are exposed to three languages. They receive instruction for about 4 months at each of the grade levels. PTO pays for the program. They are splitting up the All School Masses this year. The elementary will attend at Holy Spirit and the High School & Middle School students at the Cathedral.

Students are doing some Social Justice activities to help the Haitians and Partners in Housing. Funds will go to these two areas. Duane commented to Laura how pleased he was to see the whole piece of Catholic identity being addressed and the strategic planning that was being done.

*Health Advisory Commission* – Betty Hund was absent. Her report noted the postponement of the Brunch and Learn workshop as noted earlier.

*Liturgical Commission* – Liaison Lisa Suda was absent. Chairman Leon Senn summarized the report, noting that the commission had not met in November because interviews were being held for the liturgical minister and parish nurse position. They had an update about H1N1. Christmas liturgies and Jubilee Year were discussed. Terri Dahl was recognized for completing her term on the commission. Discussion was held if the times for reconciliation and Holy Day Masses could be announced. Fr. Kevin advised not to since this information is in the weekly bulletin.

The 12:15 p.m. Mass will remain on the schedule until after Memorial Day 2010. The other Mass times will continue as scheduled. A determination may be made in the future if more time is needed between the 9:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Masses. Since this has not been an issue due to a decrease in attendance, the 9:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Mass times will not be changed.

Parish Faith Life Commission – Liaison Joe Miranowski reported that they spoke about the work done on the “Welcoming Newcomers Program”. They have a video series in session right now called “Chuckles & Chocolate” that is worth your time. The commission held discernment for leaders in December and decided to have two Chairpersons and share the duties. The commission will be meeting next Tuesday.

A question was raised about “Spirituality in the Workplace” and what this was about. This is a document on evangelization that Fr. Gary spoke about last fall.

Social Justice Commission – Liaison Ken Jablonsky reported that the Cooper House is ready to get started on its next phase to furnish the house and is challenging the church and committees to sign up for a specific area. Fr. Kevin said they are putting a plan together for Lent to help in some manner. The house is a 43-complex for the homeless, who will pay rent. The home is to provide homeless with a place of their own to live and to assist them with employment. The house will be done by May and assistance is needed to outfit each apartment. Most are efficiencies and a few are 1-bedroom. Social Justice will place tupperware bins in key locations for storage of the items that are chosen to be donated by our parish.

Fr. Kevin added that the Sunday after the earthquake in Haiti, a woman in our congregation who had just returned from Haiti spoke to him about speaking about her experience in Haiti. He connected her with Kathy Schwinden and she will come and speak at one of the Social Justice meetings. They are hoping for more attendance at this commission meeting. The Social Justice Coordinator’s duty is to inform people about these types of educational opportunities, but response and attendance has been minimal. Bonnie Faller added that she spoke to many people who said the bulletin is a great tool, but people just don’t always read it right away to be aware of events coming up. Providing a handout at church rather than just noting in the bulletin are helpful reminders. Laura also suggested reminders be placed online on Nativity News and early enough for people to be informed about an upcoming event early or on the morning of the day of. Duane said the Nativity News online is sent out on Mondays – but will speak to staff and discuss.

Fr. Kevin added that logistically, the design of our building is an issue, since many people leave out the east door and miss passing by the Fireside and Middle Rooms. Once the gathering space is built, the hope is that not as many will leave by the east side door.

### Announcements

Chairman Leon Senn announced that the next Pastoral Council meeting would be held on Tuesday-February 23, 2010. Leon also thanked Ed Schwind for hosting the Christmas Party.

There being no further business, Chairman Leon Senn led the Council in closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Brenda Lang*

Recording Secretary