

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – August 23, 2011

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

At 6:33 p.m., Bonnie Faller led the Pastoral Council in Evening Prayer.

Council Members Present:

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

Council Members Absent: Leon Senn and Lisa Suda

Chairman Greg Schmalz called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Minutes from the 05/24/2011 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting and accepted by unanimous consensus.

At the June Social, Fr. Kevin had informed the Council about the plans to break ground on the building project beginning May 2012. He provided the council a copy of the article to be published in the VOICE that outlines the plan in more detail.

Two issues have affected the Nativity Anew II campaign; the Bishop's new plan will impact the number of students at Nativity and the fact that the campaign was \$1M short of goal. With the pledges secured to date and revision to the project design, construction will start in May of 2012. Donations will also be pursued by reaching out to Nativity School families.

OLD BUSINESS

Nativity Anew II Update

Fr. Kevin also reported that the committee has been working with the architect on the revised building plan which included a reworking of the school office area, a completely controlled vestibule so that people cannot enter the school building except through locked access, nurses office, principal's office, small work room small group room, reception area and counselor's office. Will retain the current 15 classrooms. Fr. Kevin commented that if the new Catholic school is not open by the time needed, Nativity would not have the space to accommodate more classrooms. Parish Offices will be clustered together. Dual entrances are economical, especially with the number of children at the school. Both entrances will be controlled into the school and the church. Only the school doors will be open to the public, which will include a waiting area by the entrance. The entrance by the chapel will be used only as an exit. Handicap parking will remain as is. Questions were raised on the need to address handicap access more fully for not only wheelchairs, but people with canes or walkers. Fr. Kevin will take this concern to the architect.

Architect David Schultz says that construction would be done within three months before school begins in the Fall of 2012. Each classroom will be independently heated and cooled through the geothermal system. A contingency plan is being formed to address issues that construction will affect. Fr. Kevin noted that the roof for the gym will need to be replaced within 10 years. An alternate bid will be secured for the parking lot that needs to be resurfaced. The entire project will cost \$2.9M with a May 2012 groundbreaking date. Father received very positive responses about the building plan at the August Courtyard Party.

Was also discussed that Grade schools are being built where the families are living; so there is the potential for four elementary Catholic schools.

Other Old Business – None

NEW BUSINESS

Nativity's 50th Anniversary Update

Duane provided a recap of events during this 50th Anniversary year.

- Courtyard Party was held in August with 300+ attending. The party provided great fellowship for the community to gather. Many from the neighborhood attended because the committee had gone door to door with hand invitations.
- Fall Festival is scheduled for November 6th
- Concert with Moorhead Youth Symphony on November 20th
- Movie nights continue each month
- Will close the anniversary year with the annual Christmas dinner celebration

Fall Festival Written Plan

Refer to Fr. Tom's report.

Time & Talent Plan

Duane noted that the Time & Talent Survey forms were provided in the council packet. There was no formal Time & Talent survey conducted last year. Instead a committee conducted a brainstorming session with the goal towards simplicity. They condensed the prior survey form to one sheet and created a Fact Sheet about each committee, council and commission.

Comments from council members regarding the new format included:

- is easy to read and laid out well
- very helpful to know the time element for each ministry

The team will determine when this will also be handed out during Mass. Will also include this information in the Newcomers Packet and on the Nativity website.

Only one downside was mentioned; that being there is only one copy of the Time & Talent form in the VOICE when more than one form may be needed for a family. The Time & Talent Sheet and Fact Sheet will be on the parish web site.

The new format and process will be evaluated to determine if this process will provide more responses than in the past.

Discernment Process

Duane first raised the question, "How are we called to leadership at Nativity? Shall we continue with personal invitation or hold a formal discernment evening?" The councils, commissions & committees are not on the revised Time & Talent survey this year because very few people ever checked any in the past. Personal invitation is still one of the most effective methods; but this process needs to be communicated to each of the commissions, councils and committees to encourage all members to use personal invitation when filling their open positions.

Discussion brought out the following ideas:

- Break out how many volunteers assist in the parish as a "visual" to show how many people it takes.
- The evening discernment process is still very helpful as it is a prayerful method for entering into leadership. It is more of a genuine discernment process without the pressure.
- Noted that the school PTO is an application process and personal invitation is used as well.

Duane commented that this was an introductory discussion regarding the discernment process and will be on the agenda again at future meetings.

Article Discussion – “The Eucharist – Giving Thanks”

Fr. Kevin commented that the Eucharist is near and dear to his heart; as the Eucharist is the central part of the Mass. Father expanded on the article with the following thoughts:

- In the past, people traded their wares. They brought their gifts to the altar and food was distributed to the poor.
- The priests have a 2400 sq ft garden this year with a large variety of vegetables. The first fruits from this garden were donated to the Dorothy Day House which was representative of a great exchange.
- The items people brought to the altar were representative of their lives.
- The non-baptized did not bring gifts forward as they were not able to receive communion yet.
- In our culture, money is representative of what we do; wages vary by the job. Reminded us that money should be given back to God.
- The longest “journey of faith” is from your mind to your heart.

The Eucharistic Prayer was defined very well in this article. This dialogue goes back hundreds of years. God gives back to us through the body and blood of Christ; and then we can give ourselves back to the world.

The last text change to be introduced this fall will be the dialogue in the responses. Father noted that when we stand, this represents that something important is about to happen. We are standing as the person of Christ in that moment when we say, “The Lord be with you; and with your Spirit”.

Father Kevin liked how the prayer shifts back and forth. We remember; and then we come back to the present. We step out of human time and enter into God’s time.

For the priests, the text has changed for almost every prayer. Many will not be “sensible sentences” but more poetic. Small group discussions will be held regarding the text changes through videotape, at coffee & rolls after Mass, etc.

Time was then allowed in small groups to discuss the questions at the end of the article.

Youth Representative on Pastoral Council for Sept 2011-May 2012

Fr. Tom reported that Desiree Wilson was hired August 1st as the Young Adult and Youth Minister Coordinator. The Faith Life Commission will address the youth representative position on the Pastoral Council this fall. The student should not be any older than a high school junior.

Other New Business

Wendy Paulson spoke about Music Ministry Alive at St. Catherine’s University for high school and beginning college students, who must apply to be accepted into the program. The students Wendy knew who went through the program found out about it through the parish youth coordinator. Found this was the best preparation for cantering at Mass. This year no one attended from Nativity, although scholarships are available. Duane noted that funds are allocated each year for this ministry in the Music & Liturgy budget for this young adult leadership program.

Pastor’s Comments

- Fr. Kevin continues to meet with couples on a monthly basis for Teams of Our Lady, a married couple spiritual support group.
- Movie shown in June was ‘Places in the Heart’ and cotton candy was served as a theatre snack.
- The movie ‘Norma Rae’ will be shown on September 18th with the last movie scheduled for October.
- Last night was Nativity’s Back to School Night.
- Fr. Kevin will be making his annual retreat in November.

Associate Pastor's Comments

Fr. Tom reported that the Fall Festival is scheduled for Sunday, November 6th. His report included notes from the last Fall Festival meeting regarding the raffle, dinner, new co-chairs and the focus on a 50th Anniversary theme.

Stewardship – (Finance) Council Report

Mykal Sonstelie reported that the average count for envelopes, credit card and ACH receipts is similar to the prior year and that the ACH and credit card use for stewardship is up in numbers. Revenues are up slightly and expenses, although more than last year at this time, are less than budget.

Director of Administration's Report

Duane Koble highlighted the following from his report:

- Welcomed new team member, Desiree Wilson, who will concentrate on young adult ministry for graduates after high school. WOW and LinC will continue.
- Gift grant was received from the Knights of Columbus to update the parish technology system. Several parishioners have donated computer software to help meet staff needs.
- Team Day was held to plan for the implementation of the Ordinary of the 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal.
- Work on continuing education for our parishioners. John Klocke will speak on September 20th about IRAs and how to avoid the hidden inheritance tax. Plan to hold more educational meetings like this throughout the year. These types of meetings help the People of God learn how to remember their parish in their estate planning.
- Duane recognized Ed & Jennifer Schwind for opening their home for the Pastoral Council's June Social.

Committee & Commission Reports

Buildings & Grounds Committee – Liaison Bonnie Faller reported that Mike O'Leary would be scheduling a Saturday work day and needs 6-7 people to assist with spreading dirt around the parish home. Fr. Kevin also noted that two bushes are in need of trimming. Laura mentioned that the Shanley youth are in need of work to complete their service hours.

Deanery Representative – Fr. Kevin reported that Jean Hannig is serving her last year on the Deanery and as representative for Nativity Parish. Jean has also served on the Bishop's Council. Nativity is supposed to have an alternate. The position involves representatives from 12 parishes who meet four times per year in March, May, October and November at 7:00 p.m. on a Monday evening.

The representatives meet in preparation for the Diocesan meeting and meet for a wrap-up of the Diocesan meeting. Issues are brought forward to the Pastoral Council and input is brought back to the Bishop. Please consider the Deanery Representative opening and contact Fr. Kevin if interested in learning about what happens in the Diocese. Was noted that every five years, every parish in the Diocese goes through a self evaluation.

Blessed John Paul II Catholic Schools Network Liaison Report (former FCSN Council) – Liaison Laura Alderman reported that school starts August 24th.

- Check out the new playground that was installed by the PTO this summer.
- Holy Spirit will start school at Cardinal Meunch because of water damage.
- Mrs. Ringey will be working with student support services to assist students who struggle academically and will help with individualized education plans. Be aware of these resources for students.
- New smart boards were installed that are interactive.
- TRIP sales will start after Masses again after Labor Day.
- With the new structure of the JP II Council, Laura will no longer be on the council, but will still be involved to some degree.

- Are in the formation stage to start a parish group of families at Nativity who have children in the Network, as a liaison and resource to help each other with volunteer efforts and to promote the schools.

Fr. Kevin addressed the changes to the former FCSN council and board. Used to be two representatives from five parishes. Now that there are eight parishes in the network, there will be an eight person board on the council with one representative from every parish. The council primarily deals with writing and evaluation of policies. Restructuring of the council is currently in process. Each council member will also serve on two subcommittees in the capacity of a leadership role and a voice role in either student life, buildings, marketing & PR or finance.

The board of directors used to include five priests plus three other key members. Now the board will consist of eight priests and five lay people with a specific professional expertise; i.e. lawyer, CPA, etc. These five people currently represent four parishes. Will always be looking for people as these board positions open up. The Council will continue to meet monthly. General Fund deficit spending was only \$1,000 this year. Now have an honest balanced budget completed for next year.

The reason for the Corporate Name change to Blessed John Paul II Catholic Schools Network was because they could no longer call it the Fargo Catholic Schools Network with the addition of West Fargo. Therefore, the entire corporate by-laws were restructured to accommodate the name change.

Health Advisory Commission – Liaison Wendy Paulson reported that no meeting was held in August. A September meeting is scheduled. Wendy commented that a grant that Sr. Sharon submitted in May to the American Heart Association was not granted.

Liturgical Commission – Liaison Lisa Suda was absent but had provided a written report.

The commission has been very involved in preparing for the upcoming text changes. Fr. Kevin noted that parishioners will hear a lot about it this fall every Sunday to learn all the new responses. Fr. Kevin asked that the leadership of the parish look at the positives in this change and see the opportunity for us to claim more deeply the richness and gifts of our liturgy. Be sure to read about it in the bulletin. Look at the “confusion” that the changes will foster as a great opportunity for discussion with other parishioners. The first change is mid-September when the parish will be introduced to the new Gloria; followed by the Creed, the Holy, Holy and then the dialogue.

Cards have been purchased cards to place in the pews to assist with the text changes.

All parishes in the Diocese are to follow the calendar for implementation of these changes. Some Dioceses may choose to wait until Advent to implement the changes, but many have chosen to begin prior to Advent.

Parish Faith Life Commission – Liaison Dale Craft reported on the following:

- The commission plans to evaluate families who participate in faith life formation. Plan to research further how families support their children in faith formation, how to contact these families and how to get them involved. Reluctance of parents to be involved is a major factor. Looking at incorporating parent partnerships with WoW and LinC groups to increase involvement.
- The commission needs to fill an open 1-year remaining term on the PFLC.
- Kathy Bourdon has secured 100 copies of “A Well Built Faith” to distribute to families for use at home.
- Christ Renews His Parish has started formation of a continuation committee. A Women’s CRHP retreat is scheduled in January 2012 and the Men’s CRHP retreat the last weekend in February.
- At least half of the Mass Boards are being used by children during Mass.
- Mike Pella and family deliver a loaf of bread to Newcomers with a free KC breakfast coupon. Hope to see more of these coupons being used this next year.

Social Justice Commission – Liaison Ed Schwind reported that the commission had not met.

Youth Ministry – No report.

Announcements

- Chairman Greg Schmalz announced that the next Pastoral Council is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2011.
- Fr. Kevin announced that Fr. Tom or he will be at Presbyteral Days the same evening as the September Pastoral Council meeting; therefore, he is considering moving the Pastoral Council meeting to the third Tuesday on September 20th instead. Fr. Kevin will confirm with Brenda if the meeting date will be moved up one week.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned was adjourned at 9:09 p.m. after closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lang

Recording Secretary