

## NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – September 25, 2012

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

At 6:32 p.m., Wendy Paulson led the Council in Evening Prayer.

At 6:48 p.m., Chairman Greg Schmalz called the meeting to order pursuant to notice.

### **Council Members Present:**

Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Chris Markman, Laura Alderman, David Brunelle, Duane Koble, Dale Craft, Eric Krueger, Brenda Lang, Joe Miranowski, Anne Moynihan, Wendy Paulson, Greg Schmalz, Don Schott, Lisa Suda and Corporate Treasurer Michael O'Leary

**Council Members Absent:** Bonnie Faller and Corporate Secretary Mykal Sonstelie

Minutes from the 08/28/2012 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting and accepted by unanimous consensus.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Nativity Anew II Update

- Fr. Kevin reported that the school construction project is complete for all practical purposes with a few remaining minor finishing items. The lawn was hydro seeded with the expectation that another application would probably be needed in the spring. Father emphasized that each phase of the project needs to be done in a specific order. Steel should be erected by October 10<sup>th</sup> and expect the gathering space to be enclosed by November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Fr. Kevin was contacted by someone within the parish who would pledge matching dollars for every dollar raised, up to a maximum of \$500,000. Fr. Kevin will define the timeframe for this generous match to run through. Since this project is expected to payoff with next to \$-0- left in the Parish building, this match would replenish the building fund for future maintenance and upcoming needs in the next 10-15 years; i.e. shingles, converting the church to geothermal and related maintenance costs, etc. Would aim for \$500,000 in the building fund.
- An Ad Hoc Committee will meet to discuss campaign possibilities and finalize AnewII. The campaign could realistically raise \$500,000 through the following mailing options:
  - to school families not in our parish;
  - families who have moved to the parish in the past 4-5 years and have not yet been asked to pledge;
  - to those members who have donated in the past requesting a one-time donation;
  - to those who were unable to pledge in the past.This campaign would be done prior to year end so that people could take advantage of making a tax deductible donation.
- The contractor hopes to recover from the one-month delay starting construction of the gathering space. The school was a hard deadline that had to be completed and the asbestos discovery added to the delay for the gathering space construction. Block layers also took a great deal of time to complete their part. Since there are no more surprises at this point in the project, the main construction issue now is connecting the edges between the buildings. Duane commented that this project has truly been "ANEW".

Other Old Business – None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Youth Representative for Pastoral Council

Duane reported that WOW and LinC will appoint someone within the next month.

Feedback from Liturgical Commission regarding Weekend Mass Time Change (10:45 a.m.)

Lisa Suda reported that the Commission was in favor of changing the 10:45 Mass time from 10:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. as it would allow more time for sacristans to set up, to find Eucharistic ministers and relieve congestion between Masses in the parking lot. Father Kevin selected the First Sunday of Advent for the Mass time change to be effective. Parishioners will be informed through the various communications Nativity uses.

Fall Festival Report

Fr. Chris attended the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and reported that the Festival is pulling together for November 4th. Brad Sebestal is Chair with assistance from former chairs Karl & Bev Nesler. Raffle tickets will be mailed the beginning of October. Turkey prices are being negotiated for the raffle. The fall festival committees are working on their respective areas. Are considering who would be available to assist with music. Menu will be a Pork Tenderloin as last year. Pulpit talks will be scheduled to promote the Fall Festival. The committee will meet again on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Time & Talent Plan

Duane commented that every year Nativity has done something for Time & Talent, but with the construction project nothing was done in 2012. Time & Talent will be conducted again next spring and the staff will put some ideas together. Completing Time & Talent in the spring will facilitate being prepared for the fall season when all activities start up again.

Discernment Process – Openings on Pastoral Council for 2013

Chairman Greg Schmalz noted that members discern officer and liaison positions at the October Annual meeting of the Pastoral Council. The following upcoming changes to the Pastoral Council for 2013 will include:

- Greg Schmalz and Bonnie Faller will complete their 6-year term December 2012. Two new members will be needed on the Pastoral Council beginning 2013.
- Father appoints the Corporate Secretary who then automatically serves on the Pastoral Council. By ND Corporate Law, the secretary of the corporation can only serve 4 years in a specific position; whereas in house, a person can serve on the Finance Council for two 3-year terms. Mykal Sonstelie and Michael O’Leary will have completed their four-year terms in their respective positions as Corporate Secretary and Corporate Treasurer by year end.
- One-year terms end for Brenda Lang as Recording Secretary, Joe Miranowski as Vice Chair and Duane Koble as Staff Representative.
- Lisa Suda and Laura Alderman will need to discern if they will complete a second 3-year term on the council.

Greg asked all members consider who to personally invite as a member onto the Pastoral Council. Fr. Kevin noted that the Christ Renews His Parish participants will hold their Evening of Discipleship and would be asked at that time how they may serve within their parish.

Chairman Greg Schmalz added that the role of a Pastoral Council Liaison includes filling a membership opening on a committee, commission or council and facilitating the effort that their respective committee, commission or council address updating their Constitution and By-Laws. Fr. Kevin noted that since this has been done in the past two years, most would probably only need to make minor revisions, if any.

Formation Discussion

The following three handouts were provided for discussion :

1. Faithful Citizenship
2. Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan
3. Why Catholics Care About Religious Liberty

Fr. Chris commented that this being an election year, we should be faithful citizens which is why these articles were provided to help bring our Catholic faith into the process. A YouTube video was shown followed by Fr. Chris summarizing specific points of each article followed by discussion. Discussion ended with Fr. Chris noting a general lack of thankfulness for the gift of life God has given to each of us and stated that thankfulness must start with ourselves. Fr. Kevin added that we must remember we are each baptized and anointed as priest, prophet and king. Therefore, on the day of your baptism you were chosen as His own; and one day you will need to explain the choices you made in life. Every choice you make, including voting, has an impact on your eternal salvation. Additional comments included that you may think your voice does not count, but how you live your daily life carries more of an impact than you realize. Remember that the teachings of the Catholic church remain consistent on moral issues; and how important it is to read the catechism of the Catholic church.

Other New Business - None

### **Pastor's Comments**

Fr. Kevin drew the council's attention to the following from his report:

- With the beginning of the school year, school Masses have begun and Fr. Chris has been making unscheduled school visits. Fr. Kevin and Fr. Chris will make scheduled school visits beginning October. Nativity's back-to-school fundraiser was less than last year but still very successful.
- Officiated for one funeral and one baptism this past month.
- The parishes within the Deanery are still discussing the possibility of providing overflow housing for the homeless. Rotating volunteers from all the parishes would be needed with training from the FM Coalition for the Homeless.
- Pope Benedict has declared the "Year of Faith" beginning October 11th. This marks the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and 20th Anniversary of the publishing of Pope John Paul's "Catechism of the Catholic Church." The area parishes will gather for "Dining with the Word" covering eight books of the Bible. See the calendar for the schedule.
- The Christ Renews His Parish Men's Weekend is scheduled for October 12-13. Ten men are currently signed up to attend. Fourteen women completed their weekend September 22-23.
- On a personal parish note, Monsignor Nilles recently had shoulder surgery and is expected to return home tomorrow. He will need assistance with meals, etc. over the next month due to his limited use of his arm. Please spread the word to help him where possible.

### **Parochial Vicar's Comments**

Fr. Chris' highlighted the following from his report:

- Has been giving some short reflections prior to faith formation to parents and children and then attends WOW and LinC.
- One baptism and no funerals this past month.
- Seven of 15 Befrienders attended the meeting. Since the National Befriender Association will be 30 years old next year, the group is thinking of celebrating by writing a history of the Befrienders at Nativity. They continue to search for more people interested in training to be a Befriender.
- Fr. Chris attended Fr. Jack's gala where \$204,000 was raised for his ministry in a very short timeframe. 425 people were in attendance and the event garnered a lot of publicity.

**Finance Council** – Mykal Sonstelie was absent and did not have a report.

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

Duane Koble highlighted the following from his report:

- The Pastoral Council will continue to discuss and pray about our own faith formation at our meetings.
- The JPII Fargo Catholic School User's Fee history was included in his report for informational purposes.
- Care and Share is a tradition at Nativity where 4% of the offertory is set aside for this ministry. All the agencies that Nativity supports were listed. These non-profit agencies are in line with Nativity's purpose and vision. Duane noted that Nativity is the only parish in the State of North Dakota that he is aware of that does this stewardship in this manner. Nativity also opens its front doors to assist those in need.
- A financial report was attached for the council member's review.
- Outlined the health insurance rates for Nativity employees.
- The third quarter will be closing soon and a letter will be mailed to all parishioners questioning what have you have done for Nativity; and a Time & Talent will be mailed.
- Statements are mailed to parishioners during the last quarter of the year.
- A Volunteer Appreciation Night is scheduled for October 17th to thank all who volunteer their time, energy and talents for Nativity parish. Duane thanked the council for their leadership to this parish.

### **Committee & Commission Reports**

#### **Young Adult Ministry**

- Don Schott reported that 41 students are registered for WOW and 46 attended.
- Spaghetti dinner is scheduled on October 10<sup>th</sup>.
- LinC had 11 registered students with 14 attending. Desiree is developing an incentive program to spark attendance. A Rake-A-Thon fundraiser is being planned.
- The CYA group of 20 had 5 new people in attendance and will be holding a social gathering this Thursday. The CYA group plans to read C. S. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters".
- Awe Power & Praise Wednesdays is new this year on the first Wednesday of each month beginning October 3<sup>rd</sup> and will include adoration, praise and song

**Buildings & Grounds Committee** – Liaison Bonnie Faller had no report.

**Deanery Representative** – No report.

#### **Health Advisory Commission** –

- Liaison Wendy Paulson reported that they continue to hold blood pressure checks.
- The commission reviewed the "Circle of Care" DVD.
- Election of officers will be held at the October meeting and their By-Laws and Constitution will also be reviewed.

#### **JPII Council**

- Liaison Laura Alderman had no report although she added that the small parent's group will meet again in November.
- A survey will be sent to parents.
- Conferences were held this past week.

### Liturgical Commission

- Liaison Lisa Suda reported that Pat Callens brought material samples for new altar server albs.
- Discussed the 10:45 a.m. Mass time change to 11:00 a.m. that received unanimous approval as reported earlier.
- Discussion was held to replace the pewter Communion vessels that are 30+ years old and are degrading on the bottom of the cup. The commission is researching the purchase of new Communion vessels which are quite expensive. They are also considering several options on what to do with the old Communion vessels.
- Reviewed the prayer card for the new Bishop that will be placed in the front cover of the missals.
- Discussion was held regarding the procedures for the musicians to follow.
- A new member has joined the Liturgical Commission.

Parish Faith Life Commission – Liaison Dale Craft had no report.

### Social Justice Commission

- Liaison Anne Moynihan's report highlighted the various Community events in September and October.
- Discussed possible speakers for upcoming meetings.
- Community Garden is awaiting some final poundage.
- Sales of Fair Trade Coffee this past summer were good.
- A Social Justice group has been formed at Concordia College.
- Discussed getting the Social Justice message out to others through social media and YouTube.
- Greg added that the second weekend of October is the Marian Conference.

### Announcements

Chairman Greg Schmalz announced that the next Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday-October 23rd.

There being no further business, the council closed with Evening Prayer.

Fr. Chris had a handout of questions to ask when considering a candidate for council members to review.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Brenda Lang*

Recording Secretary