

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – October 26, 2010

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

At 6:30 p.m., Lisa Suda led the Pastoral Council in Evening Prayer.

At 6:45 p.m., Chairman Leon Senn called the meeting to order, pursuant to notice.

Council Members Present:

Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Tom Feltman, Duane Koble, Laura Alderman, Dale Craft, Bonnie Fallor, Betty Hund, Ken Jablonsky, Scott Krabbenhoft, Brenda Lang, Joe Miranowski, Wendy Paulson, Greg Schmalz, Leon Senn, Lisa Suda and Corporate Treasurer Michael O'Leary

Council Members Absent: Ed Schwind and Corporate Secretary Mykal Sonsteli

Before Old Business was addressed, Fr. Kevin spoke about the commercials that will be airing mid-December and into January regarding "Catholics Come Home". When a person returns to the church, first impressions and experiences are critical. When you gather for worship, consider how important your welcome is to another person. Fr. Kevin asked the council to reflect on a story of a first impression they had in the past and to share.

The council viewed the video that was shown at Mass two weeks ago. Fr. Kevin then handed out a sheet on the "Diocese of Fargo 'First Impressions' Training". He noted that each of us has a part in welcoming people through our voice, tone of voice, a handshake, a greeting, answering a question or inviting another for coffee & rolls. Be cautious to not use sarcasm when greeting people.

Chairman Leon Senn noted that the Minutes from the 09/28/2010 Parish Council meeting were provided prior to the meeting. There being no changes, the minutes were accepted as written by unanimous consensus.

Old Business:

Fall Festival Synopsis – Fr. Tom reported that proceeds from the Fall Festival were down by \$2,200 from last year. It is the opinion of the Fall Festival Chairpersons that the date of the Festival is too early in the season. A final report will be provided next month after the Fall Festival Committee holds its wrap-up meeting.

Nativity Anew II & Cunneen Campaign Updates – Fr. Kevin reported that the campaigns are complete. The last set of letters for the Cunneen Campaign was mailed last week to those who had not responded. Duane reported that as of today, 466 people responded in some manner. He was very impressed with the number of people who were interested in using the ACH method for their offertory. The results reflect an expected weekly increase of \$3,000/week. This increase will assist with budgeting for next year; especially with a decrease of \$100,000 in offertory the past two years, which required budget cuts this year.

Duane also noted that this campaign also assisted with cleaning up the census records for the church. This has a positive impact because the census numbers affect some of Nativity's assessments. The campaigns have been a good evangelization tool, even during these difficult economic times.

Other Old Business – No other old business to report.

New Business:

Nativity's Jubilee Planning Update – Duane reported on the committee's last meeting held on October 11th.

- He commended this committee for taking their responsibilities so seriously.
- Note cards are almost sold out. Christmas ornaments are still available for purchase after Masses.
- A mass mailing will be sent outlining the Jubilee year's celebratory activities.
- Pictorial sign-ups have been going well with approximately 400 families signed up to date. Please sign up if you have not already done so. The photographer has completed taking pictures of our shut-in and nursing home parishioners for the directory. For every 50 parishioners, we receive one content page of information. Keep in mind that this is a historical directory; and not just a pictorial directory. The history of the parish and our mission statement will be used in the layout of the directory.
- Art Environment – Many creative ideas have been planned for the Jubilee. Think of the hospitality and environment of our church and its welcoming atmosphere.
- Mark your calendar for Thursday-January 27, 2011 at the Fargo Holiday Inn for the Jubilee's first event featuring dinner and entertainment to kick off our Jubilee year. Tickets will be available soon for purchase.
- Upcoming events will be publicized to keep parishioners informed.

Open Leadership Positions –

1. Liaisons reported on their success to fill positions –

- a. Betty Hund reported that nine members will be stepping off the Health Advisory Commission
- b. Ken Jablonsky did not know at this time how many, if any members were needed for the Social Justice Commission
- c. Lisa Suda stated that the Liturgical Commission continues to work on filling their open positions
- d. Fr. Kevin stated that Jean Hannig has not yet been confirmed to continue as Deanery Representative
- e. Fr. Kevin confirmed that Corporate Lay Secretary Mykal Sonstelie and Corporate Lay Treasurer Mike O'Leary will continue in their respective positions

2. Discernment of Council Officers for 2011 by Consensus Process

- Chairman Leon Senn stated that he and Vice Chair Greg Schmalz had discussed the open positions on the Pastoral Council. They decided to utilize the list of CRHP participants and passed this list around for council members to review and choose a name(s) to contact to serve on the Pastoral Council. If you prefer to not ask someone, please give your recommendation to Leon Senn and he will follow-up with the person.
- Thank you to Betty Hund for providing an announcement for the bulletin regarding the Health Advisory Commission. Liaisons were asked to write an announcement about their respective commission or committee to be posted in the bulletin about what they do and the number of open positions that need to be filled for 2011. Leon Senn will write an announcement about the Pastoral Council and Ken Jablonsky for Social Justice. Please provide these announcements to Duane Koble to publish in the bulletin.

Chairman Leon Senn expressed his gratitude to Brenda Lang for her ministry on the Pastoral Council as Recording Secretary.

Fr. Kevin then stepped in as Chair to conduct nominations for the Executive Positions on the Pastoral Council.

- He first questioned Brenda Lang if she would continue in her position as Recording Secretary for another one-year term. Brenda agreed; with the request that someone on the council be willing to step up to take minutes in the event she is unable to attend a meeting.
- Entertained nominations for Vice Chair. Current Vice Chair Greg Schmalz and Chair Leon Senn both spoke about the position and Brenda Lang reviewed the duties of Vice Chair as outlined in the By laws. Joe Miranowski was nominated and accepted the position for Vice Chair beginning January 2011.
- Entertained nominations for Chair. Greg Schmalz accepted the nomination and position as Chair of the Pastoral Council beginning January 2011.

This concluded nominations for the Executive positions on the Pastoral Council. Leon Senn resumed chairing the meeting.

YouTube Video created by Communication Intern Elizabeth Durben – Fr. Kevin reported that this informational DVD was created for the RCIA group. Duane added that this was first time that Nativity had taken on an intern who is conducting volunteer work at the church for one semester. Leon played the video for the council after a hospitality break. The video may be viewed on either of the following sites:

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Other New Business – No other new business to report.

Pastor's Comments:

- Fr. Kevin reported that he and Fr. Tom attended Presbyteral Days and spent a lot of time on the new Eucharistic Prayers. He commented that he plans to preach on these prayers because they are so rich. The new translations will be implemented next fall on 11/27/2011.

Question was raised about purchasing Missals that include the Sunday readings. Fr. Kevin said to not expect this to be changed as the Word being proclaimed is meant to be heard at Mass. He did comment that the various resources of where to find the readings to read and reflect on prior to Mass could be included in the bulletin. These resources would also be placed on the website as a link.

- Plans to travel with the youth of WOW and LinC to the Catholic Heart Work Camp next summer.
- Through RCIA, he is working with several invalid marriage situations.
- Is meeting monthly with 10 Nativity couples and three other couples for Teams of our Lady, a married couple spiritual support group.

Associate Pastor's Comments:

- Fr. Tom reported that the Befrienders meeting was rescheduled for November 18th. More volunteers are still needed for this ministry.
- The men's prayer breakfast will be held at Maryvale in Valley City this coming Saturday.
- Was unable to attend Faith Formation meeting due to calls at the hospital.

Stewardship Council Report:

- Corporate Treasurer Michael O'Leary reported on behalf of Mykal Sonsteli who was absent. October financials reflected the positive impact of the Cunneen Campaign. Mike complimented Duane Koble and the Nativity staff for their budgeting efforts.
- Offertory is at 67% of budget and should be at 75% at this time of year.
- Have written off 14 pledges for the Nativity Anew II campaign. Pledged amounts are a bit behind, although the expectation is that all remaining pledges will be collected.
- Chairman Leon Senn also commended the staff in doing a great job of keeping expenses under control.

Director of Administration's Report:

Duane Koble highlighted the following from his report:

- Included the Parish, seminary and school review Newsletter for the council's information. He directed the council to review the timeline as outlined in the summary. Expect two or three additional newsletters like this.
- FCSN User Fee – Nativity receives \$60.00 per student. A summary of the User Fees since 2008 was outlined in the report.
- Campus Update – Duane was proud to announce that nothing had broken down this past month. The boilers have not been turned on yet.
- Easter Party – Duane is under the assumption that the Easter party will be put on hiatus because the Council has not made a decision to continue this ministry. If no one steps up in leadership, this ministry will probably be dropped.
- New Software and Accounting Chart of Accounts – A training session is scheduled for November 15th as this rolls out to the diocese.
- God's Gift of Appeal – At 84% of the pledge goal of \$120,000.
- Leadership for the Christmas Party – Still waiting for someone to step up as co-coordinator. Duane asked the council to discern if they might step up and help in this ministry.
- Can review the various financial summaries on your own time that were provided in Duane's report.
- Fr. Kevin answered the question about when building at Nativity will commence. He said that Nativity must secure half of the amount needed and a plan for paying the balance. Building is also dependent on the decision if another school is built, which will have a direct effect what will be done at Nativity. The study throughout the diocese must be completed first before consideration to build will begin.
- Duane again directed everyone's attention to review the timeline of the Diocese as outlined in the Newsletter. If anyone has any ideas how the Cardinal Muench Seminary might be utilized, let Fr. Kevin know.

Committee & Commission Reports:

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

Deanery Representative – No report from Jean Hannig.

FCSN – Liaison Laura Alderman reported that they have been conducting policy reviews. The school year has been going fine; watching their budget very closely, finishing up the annual drive, working on TRIP, and donation fundraising.

Health Advisory Commission – Liaison Betty Hund reported the first Brunch and Learn for this fall is scheduled for Saturday, October 30th on “Hot Topics in Nutrition”. With nine positions to fill, please let Betty know of anyone who would be interested in serving on this commission.

Liturgical Commission – Liaison Lisa Suda reported on the following:

- Reviewed the new translations of the Mass.
- Training sessions were held in September for all ministries.
- Conducting auditions for another piano player.
- Lisa was pleased to announce that Joy McCormick has accepted the liaison position as Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion as Lisa steps down.
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word will begin the first Sunday of Advent.
- Please contact Melissa if you know anyone who is interested in serving on the Liturgical Commission.

Parish Faith Life Commission – Liaison Joe Miranowski reported that he was unable to attend the last meeting but reviewed the following from the minutes:

- The Senior High Youth Celebration will be held on November 20th in Harvey, ND.
- A core team for Youth Ministry was formed to guide the group.
- A spaghetti dinner is scheduled for February 9th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with scheduled activities.
- Sr. High and 8th Grade Mission trip will be held July 16-24 in Champagne, IL. Teams will help with music. Fundraising activities will be scheduled.
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word was also discussed.

Social Justice Commission – Liaison Ken Jablonsky highlighted the following from his report:

- New member Nikki Carlson joined the Social Justice Commission.
- Discussion was held on purchasing Fair Trade Coffee.
- Students have started collection of plastic bottle caps for the Aveda Recycling Project.
- The Commission has had various speakers at their meetings. Speakers this month were from the Stepping Stones Community Resource Center. The Center serves basic needs of at-risk youth from ages 14-22 and served 90-150 people in their first year of operation. This is one of the companies that Social Justice will include on their list to help in the future. Fr. Kevin added that the parish’s Thanksgiving Day offertory will be donated to this Center.
- The Social Justice Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month; and two members are needed for next year.

Youth Ministry – Liaison Scott Krabbenhoft handed out his report and commented on the following:

- Jr. High Youth Ministry has been reviewing the Eucharist Curriculum with emphasis on Liturgy Objectives and symbols.
Service project will be at Churches United for the Homeless.

- Sr. High Youth Ministry will be holding a praise and worship with Holy Thunder at Shanley.
Will start a study on Theology of the Body in November.
Service project will also be at Churches United for the Homeless.

Announcements:

Chairman Leon Senn announced that the Pastoral Council would meet on Tuesday - November 23, 2010.

Leon asked that each Pastoral Council member work hard to fill the positions for all councils, commissions and committees. Please reach out to people you know to become active in some form of ministry and inform Leon.

Duane Koble requested that the Pastoral Council's December/January Social be included on the November Agenda for discussion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lang

Recording Secretary
Nativity Pastoral Council