

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

January 24, 2007

Present:

Father Barr	Al DiMattesa	Betty Ryon
Loretta Haring, Fellowship	Mike Sopchick	Liz Coyle, Adult Enrich
Kathy Elder	Tom Neal	Tom Denton, Finance
Linda Kline	Bill Price	Donna Wardrup, Rec. Secretary
Dan Palumbo, Rel Ed	Tom Cosgrove	Ruth Milano Liturgy
Patrick McKenna, Youth		

Absent:

Colleen McGraw	Bill Stehle, Building	Don Zukowski
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Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Betty Ryon.

Opening Prayer led by Bill Price.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the December meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Tom Denton to approve the minutes. Linda Kline seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Building Expansion: Fr. Barr, Bill Stehle, Betty Ryon, Jim Cush, Nolan McCoy and Matt Regan met and interviewed two engineering firms, KCW and Harms Engineering. Both firms were very competent. After consultation KCW was hired. They have worked with the Archdiocese of Baltimore before. According to Jim Cush, they will begin the engineering the first week of February. If everything goes according to plan, Holy Family should have permits in one year.

The next step is to work on a fundraising strategy. Council feels that information regarding the progress of the expansion should be put on the web site so parishioners know what's going on. Information will need to be submitted to Donna in the parish office so this can be accomplished.

Employment Opportunities: Father Barr reported that he had spoken with Kathy Hoskins, lawyer for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, about the possibility of employers advertising for employees on our web site and/or bulletin. Kathy informed Father Barr that a disclaimer should be placed on the web site. Bill Price will write a disclaimer for Father Barr to submit to Kathy Hoskins for her approval.

Pastor's Report: Father Barr reported that the Christmas letter was sent to all parishioners. We are now in the process of preparing a letter enclosing a Lenten/Easter schedule and a Stations of the Cross pamphlet.

Geographic Study of Parish: Tom Cosgrove reported that he had contacted a company to prepare local neighborhood maps. The company would break down parishioners by neighborhoods. The projected cost of this would be somewhere between \$500 to \$1,000. A proposal from the company is due by the end of the week. Information from the Parish Data System was downloaded for use in preparing the proposed maps. . Neighborhood captains would then be assigned to contact parishioners to establish a connection to Holy Family. Father Barr will personally invite those to be neighborhood captains. One challenge would be the data collected by the parish and the managing of it. We need to make certain that information is not “sold” to other companies.

Parish Directory: We will move forward with the directory. Included in the Lenten/Easter letter will be information letting the parishioners know that the Council is working on a new directory. The parishioners are being asked to let the parish office know by March 1st if they do not want to be in the directory. The directory will have no pictures. It will include names, addresses and phone numbers. The Council Members who have volunteered to work on the production of the Directory are Bill Price, Kathy Elder and Linda Kline. Council hopes to complete the directory by May.

Finance Committee Report: Tom Denton reported that, for the first six months of the Parish’s July–June fiscal year, both the normal (1st) and building fund (2nd) collections have been approximately 10% lower than the Parish’s projected operating budget. Tom noted that, as a planning and testing tool, the operating budget had been projected “as if” the expenses of the Parish’s proposed expansion were already being realized.

Grocery Certificate Sales: Robert Carobrese attended the Finance Committee meeting to get ideas on how to promote sales. We need to encourage more participation from our parishioners to purchase them. Mike Sopchick reported that we need to reinstitute the Safeway program. He will contact Robert and eScrip (Safeway’s third-party fundraising coordinator) and give a report at the next Council meeting.

Faith Direct: The Finance Committee met with a representative from Faith Direct, an electronic fund transfer company. The estimated cost to the parish is \$7.80 per household which includes four mailings a year, a customized e-donation form and monthly reports for our parish data and quick book reporting. The company guarantees collections to improve. If not, the money spent will be refunded. Some parishes have seen an increase of 25-35% increase. Parishioners can enroll either on-line or by downloading a form. Parishioners can use a credit card or check card. Monies will be automatically deducted from parishioner’s accounts. Holy Family receives deposits once a month. Faith Direct is currently being offered in 20 parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington. St. Mary’s in Annapolis and St. Clare in Baltimore are also offering Faith Direct. Members of the Finance Committee are contacting some of the parishes to see how it is working for them. Tom Denton will give an update on Faith Direct at the February Council meeting.

Ministry Reports: Patrick McKenna reported that the Youth Led Family Mass continues to be a success. The ski trips that were planned had to be cancelled as there was a lack of sign ups. Father Barr suggested to Patrick and the Council an idea where he would invite someone from the Division of Youth Ministry from the Archdiocese of Baltimore to come and meet with the parents to discuss what is good or not good with the youth ministry. The parents would be assured of complete confidentiality. Father Barr would host the meeting but would then leave so the representative from the Archdiocese could take over. There would be no staff members or volunteers who work with the Youth Ministry present. Patrick will bring this idea to the next youth ministry meeting and then email Father Barr and Betty Ryon as to the discussion. Dan Palumbo mentioned that once the neighborhood captains program was in place, they could contact the families with children in the age group to see why their children do not participate. Dan felt the neighbors may be more honest with each other than with a representative from the Archdiocese.

Fellowship: New Parishioner's Welcome dinner is scheduled for February 10th. St. Gregory the Great's visit has been rescheduled to March 24th. All were encouraged to attend.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Fr. Barr will be hosting a Regional Chair Meeting for the parishes in Anne Arundel County for the volunteers who help with the Lenten Appeal. Bishop Mitchell Rozanski will be in attendance. Holy Family sponsors two parishes, St. Ann's in Grantsville and St. Patrick's in Mount Savage. St. Ann's had a fire recently at the church. Last year these two parishes received a total of \$25,000.

Liturgy: Betty Ryon mentioned that the Liturgy Committee did a beautiful job with decorating the church at Christmas. The missalettes and hymnals are very nice.

Adult Enrichment: Liz Coyle reported that the March for Life was wonderful. The Youth Mass and Rally were unbelievable. People were there from all across the country. Holy Family provided a bus with about 25 people going. Liz encouraged more participation next year.

Habitat for Humanity – Fr. Barr attended the wall raising for the house we are helping to build. There were approximately 30 volunteers present with five being there from Holy Family.

Annapolis Light House Shelter: 150 grocery bags were given out at the Masses the first weekend of January. Religious Education students were then given grocery bags to fill and bring back. Deliveries were made and the shelter pantry was overflowing with food. Leftover filled grocery bags were taken to Our Lady of Perpetual Help's food pantry.

New Business

Pastoral Council Elections: Kathy Elder will be responsible this year for coordinating the elections. Betty Ryon had prepared a time line for the flyer, bulletin and pulpit announcements and gave it to Kathy. Kathy will coordinate with Donna and report at the next meeting.

Cluster Meetings: Two handouts were given to Council members regarding guiding principles for planning for a cluster and what North Anne Arundel County parishes have planned for the future. Fr. Barr explained the handouts and how the parishes in North Anne Arundel County are planning for their future. Sr. Connie Gilder, from Bishop Mitchell Rozanski's office, is working with the clusters in Anne Arundel County. Fr. Barr is meeting with Fr. Joe Cosgrove from Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Fr. Mark Logue from Our Lady of Sorrows on Thursday, January 25th to start talking about what could happen with our cluster. Council members thought it would be a good idea to enlighten the parishioners of this cluster process and to prepare them for the possibility of having two priests to cover three parishes.

Faith Journey: Betty Ryon reported that a few parishioners had approached her about starting a Faith Journey session in the evening. Since the ministries are now planning the calendar for the new year Betty should direct this to the appropriate ministry head. It will then be determined by the staff if this is feasible with getting facilitators and meeting space. One possibility would be to start an evening session when there is a break in the Scripture Study program.

Donation: Patrick McKenna recommended the monthly \$1,000 donation be given to our sister parish, St. Gregory the Great in Baltimore. Tom Denton made a motion to approve; Linda Kline seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Barr

Next Meeting: February 28, 2007

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Wardrup

Edits by BR, MS