

Pastoral Council Meeting
February 27, 2008

Present:

Don Zukowski
Loretta Haring
Betty Ryon
Gail Rivera
Ed Longo

Tessie Ballard
Dan Palumbo
Ruth Milano
Patrick McKenna
Don Rakoskie

Father Barr
Donna Wardrup
Linda Kline
Liz Coyle

Absent:

Steve Sabo
Pam Lemanski

Bill Stehle
Tom Cosgrove

Bill Price
Colleen McGraw

Meeting called to order by Betty Ryon at 7:10pm.

Opening prayer led by Linda Kline.

Guests:

Legislative Issues: Gerry Evans, lawyer and lobbyist in Annapolis, spoke to the Pastoral Council about upcoming legislative issues. Several months ago he was approached by a friend to represent an individual wanting to change the statute of limitations regarding child abuse cases. The current time limitation is seven years after individual reaches maturity. The age in the state of Maryland is 18. The new law would change to 32 years after person reaches maturity. This bill is aimed at abuse cases in the Catholic Church but can be applied to any abuse cases. Council members asked what could be done to prevent this law from changing. Gerry suggested that local delegates be contacted and told of our opposition to this bill. It is House Bill 858.

“Belonging Leads to Believing:” Debbie and Liz Gallagher are part of a core group attending these workshops that educate them on how to increase parishioner participation and the feeling of belonging in the parish. One of the tools they will be implementing will be a parish survey. Currently the core group will focus on the “Neighborhood Captain” program which Tom Cosgrove had begun. The core group will work with Tom, Bill Price and Colleen McGraw to help network communities in case of emergencies.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of the January meeting as written was made by Linda Kline. Seconded by Don Rakoskie. Motion approved.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Barr reported that there was a miscommunication between the County and the Church about the hearing signs that were posted. One was to be put up on the Church property and the other in King's Retreat. The sign in King's Retreat was not posted; therefore, the hearing was postponed until the signs could be posted. Another hearing was scheduled for February 19, 2008. We were approved to go forward. One neighbor in King's Retreat protested due to a privacy issue. Fr. Barr met with the neighbor and our landscaping company to rectify this problem. Planting will be done along the property line. This information has been forwarded to our lawyer, Alan Hyatt, and he has forwarded it to the County.

Cluster: On March 4, 2008, the head of the Division of Clergy Personnel, Fr. Jay O'Connor, and Deacon Paul Mann, will give a talk on the clustering process in South Anne Arundel County. Members of the staffs and Pastoral Councils from Holy Family, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Our Lady of Sorrows have been invited. Fr. O'Connor and Deacon Mann will talk about how two priests can cover three parishes and how we can keep all three parishes active and running. Statistics on the shortage of priests will also be discussed. We will also be given a timeline on when our recommendations need to be given to Bishop Rozanski.

Fundraising Effort: Fr. Barr reported that \$225,000 in pledges has been raised. Volunteers are working very diligently in visiting parishioners. We are still in need of volunteers to help with this effort.

Grant Award: Betty Ryon reported that as of this meeting two applications have been received for the grant award. The deadline is March 10th. The meeting will be held on Monday, March 31st at 7pm in the Narthex. Three parish volunteers are needed, along with a member from the Pastoral Council, Finance Committee, and a Corporator. Ed Longo volunteered to represent the Council. If he is not available, Linda Kline will be the back up. Betty will facilitate the meeting.

Pastoral Council Elections: Betty emailed the Council members the timeline for the elections. A volunteer is needed to prepare the flyer. Gail

Rivera volunteered and will have the flyer to the parish office by March 17th. Members of the Council have also been asked to speak at the Masses the weekend of March 29th-30th. Linda Kline volunteered to speak at one of the Masses. Four Council members are also needed to count ballots after the elections on May 10th-11th.

Pastoral Council Retreat: The retreat will be held on March 8th at the Franciscan Monastery. Expecting 100% participation. After the last Council meeting, the members were to email Betty with their thoughts for the topic of the retreat. The consensus of the group was:

1. Focus on the “30-30-40” program
2. Spirituality and leadership skills
3. Building utilization
4. Communication with staff
5. Neighborhood captains
6. Evangelization
7. Five year pastoral plan and goals

From this list it seems the focus needs to be on Evangelization/leadership, which plays into the “30-30-40” program. Based on what is discussed at the March 4th cluster meeting, the retreat may be focused on that issue. The Council also thought that the parish staff be invited to the retreat. Donna will send an email out to the staff to invite them.

Ministry Reports and Questions:

Religious Education: Dan Palumbo reported that alternative sites are being pursued to hold Sunday morning Religious Education classes in the fall due to the construction process that may be started. Sunday evening and Monday night classes will not be affected. The parking lot will be blocked off and access to the building will be an issue. Davidsonville Elementary School is the logical choice. They will be contacted to see what needs to be done to hold classes there.

Adult Enrichment: Don Rakoskie asked Liz Coyle to check into the four special envelopes that Social Justice had requested be put in our envelope packets. This was not part of the Faith Direct giving and people have asked how they can contribute. We have ordered special envelopes for these

collections and we will make an announcement about the collection the week before.

Pastoral Council: Tessie Ballard will represent the Pastoral Council at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday during the washing of the feet.

Betty Ryon read a "Thank you" letter the Council received from the Gabriel Network for the donation made to them in October.

Donation: Ed Longo recommended the donation this month be given to Project Echo. Project Echo is a non-profit agency that provides emergency assistance to the homeless. This is a small shelter, holding approximately 25 beds, located in Prince Frederick, MD. Meals are also provided. Motion made by Linda Kline and seconded by Dan Palumbo. Motion was approved.

Next Meeting: March 26, 2008

Prayer Next Month: Colleen McGraw

Donation Next Month: Don Rakoskie

Closing Prayer let by Fr. Barr.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Donna Wardrup
March 13, 2008

Edits: LK