

Pastoral Council Meeting
November 19, 2008

Present:

Father Barr	Donna Wardrup	Pat Mutschler (Finance)
Liz Coyle (Adult Enrich)	Bill Price	Colleen McGraw
Ed Longo	Kaitlin Miller (Youth)	Tom Cosgrove
Tessie Ballard	Loretta Haring (Fellowship)	
Ruth Milano (Liturgy)	Dan Palumbo (Rel. Ed.)	

Absent:

Bill Stehle (Building Com.)	Pam Lemanski (Adult Youth Rep.)	
Steve Sabo	Gail Rivera	Kathy Elder

Meeting called to order by Tom Cosgrove at 7:05pm.

Opening prayer led by Kaitlin Miller.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the October 22, 2008 meeting were reviewed. No changes were made. Motion to approve made by Ed Longo. Seconded by Tessie Ballard. Motion approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Father Barr reported that at the Presbyteral Council meeting which was held on November 19th, Archbishop O'Brien stated that a report would be coming out on the state of Catholic schools in December.

Father Barr reviewed his report with Council members and answered questions concerning it.

Council members spoke very highly of Fr. Jim Steffis who filled in on Sunday, November 16th. Members stated that he was very reverent. He also stated that he would like to come back.

Building Expansion Update: Father Barr reported that the groundbreaking ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 13th at 4pm. Bishop Mitch Rozanski will be presiding. Prayer rocks will be available beginning November 30th.

Building progress meetings have been held every other week. Only one day of work has been lost due to weather.

The Building Committee decided to not go with geo-thermal but to update the insulation.

Development – Fund Raising Effort: Father Barr reported that we have received a total of 165 pledges. \$3.4 million has been pledged. \$1.223 cash has been received.

The fund which holds our grant money has taken a “hit” based on the recent market downturn while Holy Family Catholic Church’s “Heritage of Hope” funding has maintained its relative value.

The phases of the construction will be dependent upon whether we can raise enough money.

Cluster Plan Update: Colleen McGraw reported that the cluster group met last month. Fr. Bruce Jarboe, from the North County Cluster, came to talk about their planning process for accommodating five parishes with three priests. They worked on their plan for about five years. They are in the process of implementing their plan. There is a Pastoral Life Director at one of the parishes with 1,500 families. The other parishes range from 350 to 3,500 families.

The group needs to get moving on this and to start discussing the issues.

Father Barr reported that the pastors met on November 3rd as a follow up to the October meeting. The Bishop does not want to give us a plan. He wants to know what the people think. Upcoming meeting will involve meeting with staffs and pastoral councils and then have a town hall type meeting. The core group would be responsible for redacting the information retrieved. We were given two years to come up with a plan. The next cluster meetings are scheduled for December 4th and January 8th.

Parish Mission Update: Kathy Elder provided a written report on the telephone calls made for the mission. Copies of the report were handed out to the Council members. 815 phone calls were made over a period of four evenings. Calls were made from 7-9pm. Total of 37 hours. During this period the volunteers spoke to 35% of those called and left messages for 48% of the people. 7% were not able to be reached as numbers were

disconnected, reassigned or wrong numbers. No problems were encountered and most calls were well received. The script the volunteers were given was very well written. Council members who volunteered said that most of those they spoke with said they were coming to the mission. They appreciated the letter they received from Fr. Barr.

Ministry Reports: Ministry reports were reviewed.

Fellowship: Refreshments will be served after the groundbreaking ceremony and Mass on December 13th (Gaudete Sunday).

Liturgy: Ruth reported that Aggregate Company was going to supply the river rocks for the footings of the expansion. Unfortunately the person who was going to pick up the rocks is unable due to the hours of operation of Aggregate. Ruth went to Home Depot and found architectural river stones. They come in 20 pound bags at a cost of \$3.99 per bag. Containers with the river rocks will be in the church for people to take so they can write a prayer on them. The rocks will also be available for religious education students to take.

New Business:

Youth Ministry Overview: Ben Lorenz, Youth Minister, was invited to the meeting to give the current status, plans and goals for the youth ministry.

Tom Cosgrove reported that when the Council set their priorities, the youth was their main focus.

Ben reported that he officially started working here in July. He feels he is making progress. One of the first events he held was a weekend retreat in October at Camp Letts. Twelve youth attended and everyone had a great time. He is hoping to coordinate two retreats a year.

Another possible option is a ski trip that Ben is looking into with other youth groups. It is planned for January. The March for Life in January is something that he is also looking into.

Attendance for the middle school youth meetings has gone up. High school youth meeting numbers is staying pretty much the same. Dan Palumbo mentioned that he is telling his ninth grade class that they have to attend at

least one high school youth group meeting. Four youth came and three have continued to come. Word of mouth is helping.

The youth group is currently in the middle of a turkey drive to provide homeless shelters with Thanksgiving dinner. The youth are going door to door soliciting donations. There will be a table in the narthex for donations as well. Bowie Town Center donated a \$50.00 gift certificate to the youth who solicits the most donations.

Ben also reported that it was a struggle at the beginning with getting parent volunteers. It is getting better.

The Youth Spaghetti dinner was a great success. A parishioner who works for Shoppers Food Warehouse donated all the supplies for free except for the bread. The youth working the event were very enthusiastic.

Ben also reported that there is great interest in a men's group for high school youth. It has been hard to schedule however. There has not been as much interest in a women's group but will continue to investigate.

Tom Cosgrove thanked Ben for coming and to let the Council know if there is anything the council can do to help to please let them know.

Pastoral Council Sub-Committee Survey Results: Tom Cosgrove reviewed the Council member's areas of interest in order of preference. Social Justice and Cluster ranked first. Vocations ranked very low.

Council members were also given a copy of Holy Family's flow chart which shows all ministries and representatives. Tom asked the members to review the list to see how they are categorized and to see if there are any areas that need to be addressed.

A question was raised as to whether there is an effort being made to bring youth together from separate ministries. The youth have been talking about

it. There are several youth from the teen choir, FYI, who also attend the youth meetings. The youth members do want to visit the Children's Choir. There is an in-between age where they are too old for Children's Choir but not old enough for FYI.

Recycling issue for the new wing was brought up. Fr. Barr reported that when the expansion is complete we will be recycling. The office currently recycles paper, plastic, aluminum, etc.

Donation: Bill Price recommended the \$1,000 donation be given to the nine seminarians from Africa and Central and South American who are currently studying at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. This money will go toward their living expenses. Fr. Barr suggested that \$100 of the donation be sent to Fr. Sy who runs a mission in Africa. Motion was approved.

Upcoming Events to Attend: Noted the time change for Advent Lessons and Carols has been changed from 4pm to 5pm. Groundbreaking ceremony will begin at 4pm with Mass to follow at 4:45pm. Additional items added was Thanksgiving Day Mass at 10am and the Advent Wreath making workshop on November 29th at 9:30am.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Barr

Next Meeting: December 10th, 6:30pm, home of Bill and Patty Price.

Prayer Next Meeting: Tessie Ballard

Donation Next Meeting: Loretta Haring

Meeting Adjourned: 8:25pm

Respectfully submitted by: Donna Wardrup
November 26, 2008

Edits: CM, TC