

SS. Peter and Paul Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting January 19, 2009

Present: Dennis Adamski, Liz Aderton, John Breen, Jim Cannon, Doug Delaney, Tom Gavin, Jim McCarthy, Kevin Neis, Maureen Overman, Tom Rogers, Jillian Pociask, Fr. Milota, Marty Szczech, Jane Bowers

I. Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Doug Delaney. Fr. Milota led the opening prayer.

II. Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2008 meeting, with the addition of “a draft of” in the first line of the Worship Commission report to read “distributed a draft of information” was made by Jim Cannon, seconded by Kevin Neis. Minutes were approved by consensus.

III. Open Forum

A discussion was brought up in the open session concerning the amount of time for photos after weddings on Saturdays and whether there was enough time. There was brief discussion. It was stated that it is the parish policy to allot time from 11:00 to 12:30 and 2:30 to 4:00 for Saturday weddings which usually allows the couple 30 minutes for pictures at the church and this is usually sufficient.

IV. Old Business

A. Neighborhood Meetings Update

We had a gathering on Friday, January 16, at the Breen home and it was a pretty good turn out, especially considering the weather.

Fr. Milota will have Jessica Payne check the March calendar to set a date for the next event which will be held at the Rectory.

B. Status Report from Ad Hoc Committee for Rewrite of Constitution

John Breen distributed a first draft of revisions of the Constitution. This was reviewed and suggested changes were made. **Action: Everyone was asked that if they had any other suggestions to forward them to John. John will update the first draft and distribute an updated version to the Council Members via email.** There was as discussion about revising the Mission Statement. It was felt this may take more time.

V. **New Business**

A. Election of Officers

Doug Delaney stated that he would be stepping down and that a new president would need to be elected at the next meeting; as well as a Vice President, which office is currently vacant. As part of the revisions to the Constitution that are taking place now, it will include a change that the President and Vice President can both be either on the Council through the At-Large election or through representation from the Commissions. **Action: Nominations are to be presented at the February meeting which will then be voted on.** Fr. Milota thanked Doug for his leadership and service to him and the Council.

B. Teen Report

Jillian Pociask said she did not have a report of the attendance this month but will have that next month. She said the large groups are going well. The freshmen are also doing very well. They had a really good turnout for the parent retreat and will have others over the next few months.

VI. **Pastor's Comments**

Fr. Milota noted that Lent was coming. He said Fr. Martis is doing Parish Mission.

The US Bishops postcards to send to our Senators and Representatives opposing the Freedom of Choice Act will be available for completion at Masses on January 31 and February 1, to be collected through a second collection.

Fr. Milota said they leave on Monday for Washington D.C. with 200 for the March for Life. He also noted that the Church was packed for the Mass for Life this past Sunday.

VII. **Commission Reports**

A. Christian Education

Tom Rogers said he and Deacon Ron Brown are formulating a plan to get volunteers to take the lead for the Commission. **Action: Liz Aderton will send Tom information from her sister's group.**

B. Christian Service

Tom Gavin said they did not have a meeting. A sub-committee met Monday on the Christmas donations.

C. Worship

Dennis Adamski said that the information on policies regarding announcement and speakers at weekend Liturgies, appeals to the community from the Church Vestibule and Chapel Narthex during weekend Liturgies, and on posting announcements distributed last month was a draft and it is now in final form. This will also be put in the bulletin.

At their meeting last week, they discussed the traveling vocations cross and are working to get this back on track and to expand the number of families participating.

As we prepare for Lent, Dennis noted that Ash Wednesday is February 25, Reconciliation is April 7 and Easter is April 12.

D. Parish Life

Liz Aderton said a Trivia Night is scheduled for January 31 from 7-10 p.m.

E. Administration

Jim Cannon reviewed the detailed financials. For the Church, he noted that Sunday collections as well as the Christmas collection are below budget. The interest we are receiving has also been lowered by the bank. Total revenue is about \$70,000 below budget. It was felt that considering the recession we are not doing too badly. Our operating reserves are \$600,000-\$800,000. Staff have been asked to be conscious of cut backs and asked to use discretion. If needed, more significant action will be taken. We will also be taking a hard look as budget preparation for next year begins. Regarding expenses, salaries are up but benefits are below budget – this could be a timing issue. The repair needed for the Sacristy roof was an unbudgeted expense as was the new phone system. Light the Way raised \$62,000 which will be used for the fire wall in the school. Additional funding is coming from the state in the amount of \$21,000 and from a North Central College Calligraphy class donation of \$7,000. This project is a capital expense.

The school is in pretty close to right on their budget.

RE is right in line with their budget. There is a higher level of funding for RE this year.

VIII. Survey Results

A. “Did you Know” Ideas

Action: If you have any thoughts on this, pass them along to Jessica Payne.

B. Discussion on any long range planning

These should be reviewed yearly.

IX. Closing Prayer

Jim McCarthy said a closing prayer.

X. Adjournment

It was noted that this is the 60th anniversary of the Diocese of Joliet.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next meeting scheduled is February 16.