

Pastoral Council Minutes

March 23, 2010

Members Present: Sandy Blankenship, Father Thomas Flach, Bill Harper, Tom Kadela, Renee Kirschbaum, Adam Lawler

Church Renovations

Approximately 40 to 50 people attended the church renovation meeting. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,300,000. A resolution was sent to the Bishop for his approval to enter into a contract with the White/Borgognoni architectural firm. The plan will move forward once the contract is signed and the plan specs are formulated.

There has been some testing done for lead and asbestos. Father Flach would like to see a subcommittee for Liturgical Appointments and Design established under the umbrella of the Building Committee. This committee needs to be aware of the church directives for design and architecture and would meet with Sue Hewitt to work on the art, architecture and design issues.

Church Survey Update

Tom Kadela has not yet had a chance to put together a one page survey for the parish.

Welcoming Committee

Ed Davis would like to see a broadening of our welcoming skills. He plans to make contact with 4 new families who have not yet been contacted.

Religious Education/Youth Ministry Update

There will be an opportunity to view and discuss the movie "The Passion of the Christ." Families of the youth are invited to attend as well. A youth minister from Michigan is bringing a group to stay overnight here on April 16 on their way to a mission trip in Louisiana.

Pastoral Associate's Report

The Cluster Lenten Reflection at OLMC was attended by about 40 persons from the various parishes. Fr. John Iffert's presentation and message was well received.

The Marion Ministerial Alliance Lenten Service we hosted on March 16th was well attended. There were about 75 people who came and heard Carolyn Rauschert of St. James Episcopal Church preach. Hospitality was provided by Mary Ellen Pickar and some of the women of our parish. Five denominations were represented. They did a magnificent job, as always.

The Passover meal for PSR/YG was held on Sunday, March 21st. Father and Bill will meet with the Liturgy Committee on Wednesday, March 24th after the 5pm mass, to review plans for Palm Sunday and Holy week. There will be a cluster RCIA Retreat at OLMC on this coming Saturday, March 27th. Sr. Rosemary Heinrichs, ASC, will be directing the morning retreat.

Bill has applied for and received a CSMA (Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal Fund for Ministry) grant for \$860 to cover the cost of the *Echoes of Faith Plus* DVD series to use for local and South Deanery adult formation efforts. It has been ordered and should be here next week. This is the same series the Office of Education is using for catechist certification. He has contacted Russell Peterson at the Office of Education to explore opportunities to partner this effort.

Bill has found volunteers willing to serve on a Faith Formation Committee. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 30th. This committee will serve as a subcommittee to the Pastoral Council and will evaluate our formation activities (RCIA PSR, CLW and Adult Formation) and make recommendations to the Council. Bill will announce those in attendance at our next Parish Council meeting.

Bill will be administering the NCEA Acre test to 8th graders on Sunday, April 25th and to 5th graders on Wednesday, April 28th. The Faith Formation Committee will review the results when we receive them as part of evaluating programs.

Bill has received a \$250.00 Diocesan grant to offset hotel costs to the National Conference of Catechetical Leaders (NCCL) Conference, in Las Vegas. He will be attending April 18th thru 23rd. He expects a matching grant of \$250.00 from the NCCL. The parish has covered the cost of the conference and his airline tickets as his continuing education/formation for this year. He has been selected to serve on the NCCL Rural Catechesis Committee.

Jared Bryson will be giving an Adult Formation reflection on Sunday, April 25th, at 6pm. His topic is Lay Ministry from our Baptismal Call. Jared holds a Masters of Divinity from Aquinas Institute and serves on the Diocesan Liturgical Committee. He is a dynamic presenter and speaker. Bill has served with him on various diocesan boards and committees.

At the request of several ladies from our Bible Study Group and the Adult Faith Formation Committee we have begun a Parish Book Club. Our first selection is *A Same Kind of Different As Me*, by Ron Hall. Fifteen attended the first session on Monday, March 15th.

Catholic Social Services Annual Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 10th at St. Andrew/Murphysboro KC Hall at 9am. First Communion will be held on Sunday, April 11th at the 11am mass. We have 15 students receiving.

The annual Senior Breakfast will be held between masses on Sunday, April 18 at 9:30am. Janice Abell is coordinating. It is a small junior class (8 families) and a large senior class (24 families). Bill has asked that we make a more concerted effort to invite all St. Joseph Seniors and their families.

Confirmation will be held at St. Joseph on Wednesday, May 19th at 7pm with Bishop Braxton presiding.

As a result of the national audit of the Diocesan Child Protection Policy. We have been asked to address a couple issues that arose. Adults participating in Youth Ministry events must have all of their paperwork and background checks completed prior to attending these events. It takes 3-4 weeks to process the forms. People working in multiple parishes are supposed to be coded for all of those places. That works for the diocese record keeping, but, we just get a report that states, so and so needs these forms updated. As location coordinator at St. Joseph, in order to reduce duplication of effort for volunteers, I have asked OLMC to make copies of forms that are turned in at their location for parishioners of St. Joseph.

Employee evaluations are completed with one more to go. There has been some resistance to the process, but nothing over the top. Goals have been set for the year for each employee. Progress toward those goals will be evaluated, as needed, during the year and at the next annual evaluation.

Bill has ordered a parish membership in the National Pastoral Musicians (NPM) for Father, himself, Debra DeGoricia, Patty Lynn, Lori Power and Joe Shevlin. It represents an initial conversation about formation for those engaged in music ministry in our parish.

Dick Heckel and Bill are finishing up data input and creation of schedules with the new Ministry Scheduler Pro software. New ministry schedules will be mailed out by the end of this week for April and May. Future schedules will be placed in the back of church and announcements will be made when they are ready. They will be created on a quarterly basis. LaVerne will no longer be handling this duty.

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Bill will take two weeks of vacation June 13th through June 27th.

Other Business

Randy Barton has concerns about cleaning up the tree line area on the soccer field. It will take about \$2400 to do this with the city paying half, and the other half covered by the Knights and the general fund. A motion was made and approved for \$600 to be taken from the general fund for this project.

Daniel's Landscaping has volunteered to do some new landscaping around the rectory. He is doing the labor and providing the materials for free.

Finance Report- There was some discussion of the line items in the report and how these could be made clearer. There will be a new bookkeeping system in the next fiscal year which should help. Father Flach and Bill will be working on a new budget in April and May. This will be presented to the council in May.

A proposal was made for the Social Committee to run its finances through the general fund.

Some questions from the Women's Guild were presented by Sandy Blankenship. One issue was the electrical outlets in the island, and how the Guild would be willing to pay to have some outlets installed, if this is feasible. There was also some concern about the installation of another dishwasher with financial support from the Women's Guild. The proposal to install another dishwasher was approved.