

St. Gerald Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes September 08
Sept 18, 2008

Present: Sr. Michelle Faltus, Judy Haug, Angie Luna (Vice President), Brent Pohlman, Darlene Sheridan, Jim Svoboda (President), Becky Tometich (Secretary)

Absent: Mary Bystrom

Also Present: Father Gary Ostrander, Dave Garland-School principal, (Kathy Hanson, Recording Secretary)

OPENING PRAYER

I. GUEST REPORTS: none

II. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: approved

III. SCHOOL Report: (Dave Garland) – *see Attachment 1, Principle's Report to the Parish Council 9-18-08*
Additional comments: Parent Teacher conferences are expected to be at the end of October.

IV. PASTORS REPORT:

A. Small Group Faith Sharing/Renew: Approximately 150 folks signed up so far. Father considering offering additional adult ed (St. Paul) programs, but does not want to take anything away from these groups.

B. RCIA getting started – 15 candidates now.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship (Stew) – Angie Luna – *see Attachment 2, Stewardship written report*

Additional comments:

- Meeting was last week. Parish Tuition Assistance was discussed where individuals receive help if under a certain income. It is in danger of being dropped by Wal-mart and then we would need to start to contribute more for scholarships for our lower income student families.

- Some new members attended this meeting.

School Board Committee – Judy Haug *no written minutes*

- *See above school discussion. Additional discussion:*

- Alumni information gathering was reported on at the school board meeting briefly. Principle suggested additional web sites to review and ideas being obtained from other experienced 'alumni gatherers'.

- Representative asked about concerns brought up regarding specific school staff during school board meetings and how that should be handled. It was reiterated that specific staff concerns should go directly to staff member and if not satisfied, to the principal who deals with it as he/she sees fit. If not satisfied there, it can be brought up with the pastor, who may or may not bring it up to the school board. The school board exists to advise and 'police' the principal. School board can recommend that the Principal be kept or fired, but specific management of the school staff is left to the Principal's discretion. It was suggested that a common mis-use of the school board is to want to run the school. A recommendation was made that school board member names be advertised, so that folks can ask them questions or discuss concerns instead of talking 'about' things happening at the school with other parents. Emphasis was again placed on the folks handling problems directly with teachers and/or principal.

- Other concerns discussed at the School board were finding realistic expectations on the computer curriculum and completion of job description for all school employees.

Evangelization (Evan) - Fr. Gary – *See Pastors Report, above. No written report this month*

Parish Ed – Brent Pohlman – *no written report this month.*

- Athletic Director is new and appears to be tightening up compliance with regulations and requirements. He is working on web site with calendar, especially for basketball schedules. He is also tracking and attempting to enforce the 'Safe Environment' testing for athletic coaches/ assistant coaches and helpers.

Finance (Fin). - Sr. Michelle Faltus *No written report this month*

- Budget looking good so far.
- At last finance committee meeting, it was questioned whether St. Gerald as a parish should continue donations to other community or non-profit efforts such as mass on TV (about ½ of the money goes to this), Special Olympics, Fire/rescue, etc...(since many people donate to these separately). It was explained that there is a small discretionary fund (thought it was maybe \$2-4K – approved by parish council ~5 yrs ago) that was designated for contributing to community/special requests. It was asked of Parish Council if we wanted to continue that fund since it appears that Parish Council approved the funds to begin with. The overwhelming majority of members thought that we should continue these donations.

Human Needs Committee (HN) - Darlene Sheridan – *No Report this month*

- Kathy Wiese (Angel Tree) decided that a more formal way to figure out where we get the names for the angel tree may be needed, since several names were recognized as same folks for several years. Kathy may want to try to find a person to take over this effort or help lead it.
- Dorothy Day house closing
- Francis Sienna has moved and looking for new home
- Jean Thompson ran the first drive for the tri-county pantry and we were very pleased to donate ~\$2K and many bags of groceries. The pantry was very excited to have received these donations.
- Adopt a Family – Fr. Daverin (sp?) sent a letter from St. Benedicts @ 2423 Grant St asking our parish to sponsor a family. We weren't 100% clear if they meant our whole parish adopt one family or their whole parish family... but the letter sounds like they would just like some individual families to be adopted. A discussion ensued regarding the overlap of these services with other social services and how that is controlled. Also discussed was the great number or low income/poor families that live in all the apartments around our parish and how much they continue to need our help/ get into crunches.

Liturgy (Lit) - Becky Tometich – *See Attachment 3, Liturgy Report*

Additional discussion:

- PC Rep offered to help lead the meetings if chairperson could not attend/ lead. A suggestion was made to see if chair is interested in giving up the chair position on this committee and if so, perhaps ask Vicky Hagerty if she would be interested in helping/chairing this committee.
- Fall Liturgy Workshop – Mary Clare trying to work with office to set an appropriate date for this.
- Holy Day Mass times – working on that
- Missalette Holders – still working on this but cost seems prohibitive

Maintenance (maint) – *no report this month*

- Tim informed maintenance committee he is new liaison to the PC.
- Mulching was accomplished this summer/ fall

Social Committee (Soc) – *see Attachment 4, Social Committee report*

Additional discussion:

- 'Thinking of You' cards – still of interest to PC members to get this going. If possible, Mary can call parishioners to find leaders or helpers in this. .

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

9am Mass – commissioning of new members.

Nick Steinbeck retirement – discussed ideas for this and decided to try to find a lasting gift/token. Some ideas were to plant a tree in his honor, prayer plant, scholarship, donor plack, etc... PC members were asked to keep brainstorming for ideas on this.

Goals for 08-09: See Attachment 5, Goals and Responsibilities: Specifically, it was asked that Goal #23 (ways to get confirmation kids involved in parish) be discussed. Some suggestions for ways to get them involved ae: bringing up gifts, welcoming, vocations cross, etc. One suggestion was to have additional special kid-led masses for the CCD kids. It was suggested that many teens prefer not to stand up/out and may prefer more ‘back seat’ type projects. PC members were asked to keep thinking of ideas on this.

V. PRESIDENT/ VP BUSINESS:

Next meetings: Next Meeting October 9th.
Sept 28, 9am mass is the Investiture for the Parish Council Members

CLOSING PRAYER / Adjournment