

St. Gerald Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes November 08

November 12, 2008

Present: Mary Bystrom, Judy Haug, Angie Luna (Vice President), Brent Pohlman, Darlene Sheridan, Jim Svoboda (President), Becky Tometich (Secretary)

Absent: Sr. Michelle Faltus, Dave Garland (School Principal)

Also Present: Father Gary Ostrander, (Kathy Hanson, Recording Secretary), Guest, Kathy Kensinger

OPENING PRAYER

I. GUEST REPORTS: Youth Ministry Director, Kathy Kensinger (see Attachment 1/ 12 documents)

Kathy invited us to pray for the youth and described background information regarding the Youth Ministry program to start with. Background information included 'Renewing the Vision' which she described as an Inspired document from the Bishops, 'Millinium Generation... Changing face of Youth Ministry', 'Young Adolescent Catholics', 'Circle of Grace' and described other Documents and leadership development training/tools she has worked with and recommends. Milestones and goals from 1976 to present were described as delineated on an attachment. She said that the priest sexual scandal publicity hurt youth ministry programs with up to 70% decreased participation. Our youth are in crisis, per Kathy with over 50% of Ralston kids now qualifying for free lunch program.

It was asked what we could do to help. Kathy said that she is spread thin between youth programs and confirmation program and filling in where needed, so more volunteers or paid staff would certainly help. It was asked where the interest/success is now.. and she said that most of the interest/success she feels centers around the confirmation program and retreats and maybe the Archdiocesan Jr High Gathering. The youth camp was mentioned as an exciting development, but funding is not there to complete the project as quick as hoped. She also mentioned that Flexibility and ability to respond to new families each year is one of the successes we can build on.

She was asked how many teens are in our parish and she said she thought it was about 540 teens that she mails to; including mailing them a survey/assessment/brochure and evaluation, of which she got very little response. Other programs were brought up including the upcoming NCYC (national catholic youth conference) in Kansas City... She suggested that we need to figure out a way to get parents to write youth events on their calendar and call other parents. It was asked which youth programs in the Omaha area seem to be growing and she said that she thinks St. Stevens has been growing. It was suggested that the parish council try to digest all of this information and consider ways to help the program, as possible.

II. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: approved as amended

III. SCHOOL Report: (Dave Garland) – No minutes, no additional discussion; see School Advisory notes.

IV. PASTORS REPORT:

See Evangelization.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship (Stew) – Angie Luna *see Attachment 2, Stewardship meeting Agenda*

Additional comments:

- Guardian Angel Dinner has good number signed up; almost full.
- Updated Stewardship lists were given out.

School Board Committee – Judy Haug *see Attachment 3, Notes from Meeting of October 20, 08*

- *Additional comments:* 3 children left the school; 1 moved and 2 transferred for more help. Held orientation for 7th grade confirmation class, completed progress reports, parent teacher conferences, red-ribbon week and casual day where money went to Focus ministry/United Way. Started advertising for kindergarten

class. Letters went to parishioners with kids appropriate age. School board members + Judy to call these families with a personal invite/follow up. Dave a bit less optimistic about next year's enrollment; suggestions made to contact some immigrant populations plus other ideas were discussed. Accreditation was discussed again and encouraged.

Evangelization (Evan) - Fr. Gary –*No written report this month*

Father noted that Renew is going on, St. Paul films are being shown, and Lenten Mission is being planned.

Parish Ed – Brent Pohlman – *no written report this month.-(includes MOMS now).*

- *Youth..* see Guest report

- Mens Study Getting started, St. Vincent Speaker Steve Ray?/ Deacon James Keating upcoming; Men's bible study following Jeff Kavin's outline is going to be tried soon. A movie called Sunday School Musical was recommended.

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

- John will be attending on an as-needed basis per Father Gary.

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

- Angel Food Program – Sr. Center did ok use of their facility when things get going after first of year. Some questions were asked such as who's tax ID is used, what forms of payment is accepted. It was decided that we needed at least 2-5 main volunteers to get it started and would like to get started after the first of the year/ after time to ask for interested leaders in the bulletin.

Liturgy (Lit) - Becky Tometich – *No meeting, see Attachment 4, Liturgy Committee meeting Nov 10*

Maintenance (maint) – *see Attachment 5, Maintenance Committee report*

Additional Discussion

- Sound System: contractors coming to review/quote next Thursday
- Gym Roof: contractors also coming to review this next week.

Social Committee (Soc) – *No written report this month*

- Get Well Cards – Few more parishioners want to help.
- Mudjugorgia (sp?) speaker was well received.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Nick Steinbeck retirement – motion to approve recommendation from last week approved.

VII, NEW BUSINESS: none

VIII. PRESIDENT/ VP BUSINESS:

Next meetings: Next Meeting / Gathering – Dec 14, 6pm at Jims for party.

CLOSING PRAYER / Adjournment