

St. Gerald Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes

January 8 2009

Present: Mary Bystrom, Sr. Michelle Faltus, Judy Haug, Angie Luna (Vice President), Tim Mundorf, Brent Pohlman, , Jim Svoboda (President), Becky Tometich (Secretary),

Absent: , Dave Garland (School Principal), Darlene Sheridan

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

OPENING PRAYER

I. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: approved

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

III. PASTORS REPORT: See Evangelization.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

School Board Committee - Judy Haug, *No written report this month*

Barb Schwager (sp?) was a guest speaker at the School Board meeting to talk about Accreditation requirements/etc. Parents are looking at accreditation now and donors also look at that. Dave does not believe it should be a priority as it is a lot of work for the teachers/others. Next month they will discuss more. Dave was considering bringing in a guest administrator that went through the process of accreditation and has a negative view of it. PC Members asked that if someone be brought in regarding accreditation, they either be impartial or that they bring in folks from both viewpoints.

Stewardship (Stew) - Angie Luna, *No written report this month. See also Finance*

- Slightly exceeded our goal for archdiocesan donations.
- *Stewardship meeting/sign-ups:* Angie will attend next meeting and final group of add'l folks signed up to help on committees should be coming soon for PC'ers to assure are being contacted.
- *Answering the Call – sign up form for Mission:* Reviewed and suggested items that could be removed are parking lot security, sign changing, gravel removal, 'get well' letter writing, and moving crew. Add EMHC's and EME's to Homebound and possibly add childcare, Angel Food and Guardian Angel Dinner. Possibly invite to participate in the Great Adventure Bible Study or other on-going smaller group faith sharing in addition to the next 'To Live In Christ' small group sharing session.

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

- *Small Group Sharing (To Live in Christ/Renew):* second session is on-going with just a few new participants. It was suggested that part of the reason its not 'catching on' strongly might be the absenxe of a 'one word' title for recognition like RENEW had.
- Parish Mission is to be March 15-22 with the Vincention twins.
- Other ideas father is considering for adult ed/evangelization include EPIC (20 lessons on Church History) and The Great Adventure (Jeff Kavins chronology of the bible).

Parish Ed – Brent Pohlman. - *(includes MOMS now). See also Evangelization, above.*

- *Youth:* Noted that Kathy has asked for parental ideas / involvement in the bulletin. It was asked how do we put more 'Life' in our youth ministry. Suggestion that we need more 7-8th grade involvement and separate group from high schoolers. Suggested that info be put in the menu notes also.
- *Mens Ministry:* Deacon James Keating was recommended for a speaker and costs approx \$300 to bring him in as speaker to men of the parish. All agreed this would be a good idea. Discussed approx \$/person to attend, and father said that he thought we should find a way to fund this, so that they have to pay little or nothing to attend.

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

- At Dec meeting we were up \$17K on St. G's funding/income. We are a below budget approx \$30k on maintenance so far this fiscal year though, which helps more, especially during this recession time. Other churches aren't doing so well. Christmas collection was just about on budget. Father is asking all to work hard to control expenses.
- *Debt/Middle School* – \$500-600k is owed and PC members brought up ways to present/work on getting rid of this debt/ interest if 'additional extra contributions' don't pick up considerably before the payments are due. All remaining pledges will be complete soon, and 'additional contributions' have not been near enough to 'make the payments' on that loan when current final group of pledges are done. Discussed some options including 1) Asking \$1000/family one time gift from some parishioners, 2) Reminder of 'pledges completed' now or when all are done with their pledge schedule to just 'put XX much' into the regular contributions we'd make our payments. 3) Reminder of how much interest we would save by paying it off in the next year vs XX years, then ask for add'l contributions over next year or two. All discussion, no definite recommendations from PC at this time.

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

- *Angel Food Program*: Actually had enough volunteers interested in getting this going to get it started in next few weeks/months. We'll just kinda see how it goes.

Liturgy (Lit) - Becky Tometich, *No written report this month*

- Decorations: Kathy De'Ercole has a great group of folks helping her decorate and PC members complimented the Christmas decore.
- Security: They have adequate volunteers now, but don't always get called by 'organizations' to let them know that parking lot security might be needed. Not all events are covered (wedding/funerals/etc).. but the Goodriches would like some direction as to what events are happening and which we would like to see coverage for. PC members suggested that the Goodriches can use their discretion to determine which to cover. Becky will talk with them/parish secretary to obtain updated 'events' calendar for their appropriate review.
- Lock-up: Ron Goodrich is locking up now for Frank, since he is reducing activity for health concerns.
- Ushers: Not enough help in this area currently. To ask for help on the Mission 'answering the call' stewardship form.
- Perpetual Adoration: Night / Weekend coverage is always needed.
- EMHC's: Struggled to get enough for Christmas.. short in general. 12pm mass seems the hardest to schedule and folks don't show up. First Communion/etc.. hard to get. Suggestion to keep this on the Mission sign up sheet and ask for parental help /etc for First Communion/ Confirmation/etc..

Maintenance (maint) – Tim Mundorf, *see Attachment 2, Maintenance Committee report 1/8/09*

Additional Discussion

- Sound System – Expect Feb28th completion/ training to follow.
- Roof – Group felt we received a good bid due to slow season and we will maintain/fix the skylights. Interior insulation may wait or be replaced by volunteers/parishioners if considered safe enough. This is not required, but would be nice to plan for replacement due to wear and tear already evident.
- Gym Floor – Men's club would like to consider replacing gym floor and would be willing to raise money to help with this. Between this and some Guardian Angel proceeds, Father Gary thinks we should be able to swing this replacement.

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

- *Get Well Cards*: Parishioner volunteers getting stated.. very valuable ministry.
- *Friends On Q*: Meeting minutes available through coordinator or office if anyone wants to review
- *Donut Sunday*: Looking for replacement or more leadership with D.W. This is 3x/year ministry; Mary Morss is one person who has volunteered to help, but probably need more.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Nick *Steinbeck retirement* – We looked at the cute character they had made and all thought it was very good, along with the framed article. They planned to present it to him in the morning before school; during catholic schools week. (later decided that school already had presentation to him.. so Father Gary is going to present to him privately).

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Boy Scouts asked to use the parish center for a *Volunteer Appreciation Banquet* April 4th. A vote was requested to allow exception to normal rules/guidelines for private use of the hall to accommodate our support of this community activity. All voted 'for' the Boy scout use of the facility for a reduced rate; with understanding that we are one of many churches so will not be asked to do it again for quite a few years and that they understand the other requirements such as security/ use of kitchen/ etc...

On a related note: some groups that are currently using other spaces in the church have been allowing non-parishioners to have obtain/ return keys. PC/Father did not see this as a problem unless other issues become evident.

VIII. PRESIDENT/ VP BUSINESS:

Next meetings: Next Meeting – Feb 12, 7pm; School Conference Room

CLOSING PRAYER / Adjournment