

## St. Gerald Parish Pastoral Council

### Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2009

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

Absent:

Also Present: Father Gary Ostrander

### OPENING PRAYER

I. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: approved

II. SCHOOL Report: (Dave Garland) – Provided a written report; Current enrollment at 396; In January teachers attended Religious Education In-Service sponsored by Urban West Deanery – program by Sr. Clare Fitzgerald; Discussed activities from Catholic Schools Week – response to activities was very positive; 8<sup>th</sup> graders performed Cinderella play on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> – was well-received and a good opportunity for students to explore interest in dramatic arts; Open House on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> was attended by 13 families – several families may consider transferring children to St. Gerald in addition to 3 prospective new K children; St. Gerald 8<sup>th</sup> grader Molly Undersander was recipient of Skutt High scholarship presented at Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> assembly; New family from Florida joined St. Gerald after Christmas break – new students are in grades 4, 6 and 8; current pre-registration for next year's K class stands at 44 children.

III. PASTORS REPORT: See Evangelization.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

School board is examined timing of Iowa Test of Basic Skills – due to expense of moving from current timing, a change will likely not be made; Recruitment letter was sent to K-age students with follow-up calls from board members to promote attendance at the recent open house; Alumni information will be requested on front page of this week's bulletin; Home & School requested counsel on the best way to distribute funds for larger requests – H&S has operating budget of about \$30k, some requests have been for \$1k plus – it was determined that Chris H. as development director may be a good source of advice on approval of these items; Walk-a-thon will be held April 25<sup>th</sup>; A 5-year upgrade plan for the school computers is being devised by Rob Mendick and Ted Meckleburg; School copy machines now require an access code for copies – this has cut down on the overage charges the parish has incurred from the company that leases the copy machines; Accreditation for the school appears to be on hold for the time being; The National Foundation of Catholic School Parents is supporting a bill that would institute a tax credit for individuals donating to parochial school scholarship funds – Parish Council suggested an informational email to school parents if they would like to contact their state senator with questions or to voice their opinion on the bill.

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

- Angie completed a letter to various committee heads and forwarded their lists of interested individuals from the fall stewardship campaign, all council members were grateful for Angie's initiative in getting the lists out;
- Chris Hanson will be updating the Parish Directory in its next printing with the latest information from the list of committee chairs.

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

- Parish Mission is to be March 15-22 with the Vincention twins.
- Planning indicates upcoming Missions will feature Fr. Gillick in 2010 and the Redemptorist Fathers in 2011

Parish Ed – Brent Pohlman.- *No written report this month*

- Jr. High faith sharing group has been organized and is planning on meeting Monday evenings
- A brainstorm session for parents with Kathy Kensinger is scheduled for Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Men's study with Deacon Keating will be Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, a promotion flyer is forthcoming

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

- Parish is running about \$1500 behind budget, which is not bad in comparison to what other parish's are currently reporting.
- Children's Scholarship fund is having a positive impact on budget as the scholarships provided are based on total student cost rather than just tuition (which is subsidized by parish).
- Startup classroom supplies consumed 87% of supplies budget, currently over budget in that category
- Judy Haug is planning to create a monthly budget report for the school – this tool may help curb expenses.

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

- Kathy Madris, chair of the Human Needs committee is moving to Alabama. Position may or may not need immediate replacement. Various Human Needs activities are fairly self-sustaining. If a replacement is needed Darlene Sheridan or Joan Squier may be interested.

Liturgy- Becky Tometich, *No written report this month*

- No new Liturgy committee meeting as of date of PC meeting.

Maintenance – Tim Mundorf, *No written report this month*

- No new Maintenance committee meeting as of date of PC meeting.

Social Committee - Mary Bystrom, *No written report this month*

- Donut Sunday intersection with Welcome Sunday caused some confusion for prospective parishioners who weren't sure where to go for the Welcome session. PC suggested signs be created directing new members on where meeting is being held – one for just inside door and one just outside the meeting "room."
- Funeral Lunch committee would like to have a bake sale on Palm Sunday to fund coming year's funeral lunch activities. Sharon Bisson to organize. Item soliciting baked goods will be added to the "Answer The Call" mini-stewardship drive form.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Nick *Steinbeck retirement* – At PC's request, Fr. Gary presented the artwork simply in private. Nick sent a very nice thank you note to the Parish Council expressing his gratitude to the parish for the memento.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- Council discussed implementing procedure for sending a copy of approved minutes to Cheryl for filing in the parish office.
- Council members were encouraged to begin thinking about whom they might ask to run for council in the upcoming elections.

VIII. PRESIDENT/ VP BUSINESS:

Next meetings: Next Meeting – March 26, 7pm; Nursery Room at 96<sup>th</sup> & Q church

CLOSING PRAYER / Adjournment