

**Pastoral Council Meeting  
December 9, 2008**

Present: Carol Buerman, Jamie Lockman, Sr. Doris, Fr. Jeff, Christine Whitlatch, Jeff Bretherton Steve Strothman, Ken Smith, Linda Zarko, Mary Callahan-Baumstark, Jennifer Blood, Kirsten Hangas, Richard Bishop, Sue Monroe

Absent: Ryan Johnson, Paraic Neibergs, Cathy Schwenk, Trina Murphy

Council met at 6:00PM for a potluck

Fr. Jeff opened in prayer.

I. Updates

**CCM-** Kirsten reported that this is finals week and the students are preparing pancakes tonight for a pancake study break. Kirsten is working with a work group regarding the future planning for CCM. One intern has chosen not to return next semester. The intern will not be replaced.

**Newsletter-** Fr. Jeff shared a copy of the newsletter that will be sent next week that includes the Christmas Liturgy schedule.

**Capital Campaign Update-**Fr. Jeff shared a handout on the status of the Capital Campaign that will be put in this weekend's bulletin. We currently have met 70% of our goal!

There were questions about the home visits that were scheduled with those who did not respond to the campaign. Fr. Jeff shared that there were too many families and not enough volunteers to make it happen. Jeff B. shared that Molly Stockdale is putting together volunteers to contact parishioners by phone and Fr. Jeff states that we did not have enough volunteers to make the phone calls so Molly is going to postpone until after holidays so that she can recruit more volunteers. Concerns about the phone calls being all about soliciting for money and how that is a turnoff for people. Fr. Jeff explained that Molly has written a nice prepared dialogue so that it focuses more on outreach than on asking for money. Habitat for Humanity- Fr. Jeff reported that he spoke to Blessed Trinity and St. Anthony's about partnering for the Habitat project and has not received a response. He stated that we currently do not have the funds to commit at this time.

**Sacraments and Liturgy-**The 7PM liturgy will be on Christmas break until January 25<sup>th</sup>. The reconciliation service went well. It was suggested we have one more station. Confirmation is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM and location has yet to be determined. CTK has offered to host. The Parish office will be closed from December 22-January 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be mass on January 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:10PM.

III. Monthly Standing Parish committee/group. Tabled

IV. Old Business

- a. Reviewed the minutes from last month and they were approved.
- b. Pre-School-We continued our discussion about the pre-school for the rest of the meeting. Fr. Jeff shared with the council that the Diocese will be instituting pastoral planning for the whole diocese and will follow the guidelines in "Light the Way" booklet we reviewed. It was recommended that we not conduct any pastoral planning until we know what the diocese has planned for us. It was suggested that Joan Butler be contacted to notify her that we are not planning to pursue the preschool at this time. Jeff Bretherton volunteered to contact her.

The group also discussed some of the concerns about hosting a pre-school. Members of the Pastoral team shared that when we built our new addition that it created serious issues with the neighbors who tried to prevent us from building and we had to make many accommodations to our building design to meet their demands. It was also shared that due to the neighbors objection to our expansion we made a good faith agreement to not use the space for any type of school or to expand our programs because of the concern about the increase in traffic and parking. Jeff B. expressed concern that we are unable to expand in any direction due to the neighbors. Sue shared that after our experience that we have moved on. We are now zoned for residential and not commercial. The office of planning and grants would need to be contacted and at this point Fr. Jeff does not have the time or energy to start dialogue with them. Fr. Jeff also spoke to Rick Hyland, principal of St. Joseph's school about their interest in a pre-school and Rick is not interested in providing a pre-school.

Christine asked for clarification about the Pastoral Council and is concerned that it is meant to be a rubber stamp of decisions made by the team. Fr. Jeff clarified by saying that the Pastoral Council is an advisory council and not a decision -making council.

Joan B. validated that the pastoral council has made some positive strides however it has been curtailed by the Capital Campaign. So it does appear that we have not made much progress. She suggested that we focus on some of the strengths in our parish and not just focus on what we need to do. We have a lot to celebrate with our capital campaign and the growth in our parish. Jamie L. concurred. Fr. Jeff suggested that since we are an advisory body that we may cut back on our agenda and focus on one issue at a time. This would require a

change in the by-laws regarding standing committees. This needs to be discussed further.

We were unable to finish any new business at this meeting and will postpone until next meeting.

V. New business

- c. January meeting: January 13 at 7:00PM.  
Prayer: Steve            Treats: Ken

VI. Closing Prayer

Fr. Jeff provided closing prayer.

Meeting Adjourned  
Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Bartkowski  
Parish Secretary