

**Pastoral Council Meeting
May 12, 2009**

Present: Sr. Doris, Fr. Jeff, Steve Strothman, Cathy Schwenk, Trina Murphy, Joan Hoedel, Ken Smith, Kirsten Hangan Carol Buerman, Jamie Lockman, Jeff Bretherton Richard Bishop, Linda Zarko

Absent: Mary Callahan-Baumstark, Jen Blood , Ryan Johnson, Christine Whitlatch, Paraic Neibergs, Sue Monroe

Guest: Larry Oeser, Pastoral Council Nominee

Overview of Pastoral Council

Fr. Jeff provided an overview of the pastoral council for the nominees prior to the council meeting. Council members had an opportunity to meet with nominees and for the nominees to ask questions. Nominees were invited to stay for the council meeting.

Joan B. opened in prayer.

I. Updates

CCM- Kirsten reported that there was a core group of students who had consistent attendance at UNITE this year. She shared that there are three new interns for the next school year and she has hired one service minister.

Members of the council had questions such as the goal of CCM. The goal is to be a home away from home for Catholic students and to also help them identify their own reasons for being a part of the Catholic Church other than the identity formed by their parents.

One suggestion was to put the profiles of the interns on the parish website. Kirsten also shared that CCM does have its own website that is linked to the parish website.

On August 29 & 30th CCM is going to have the interns and any interested parishioner wear red t-shirts to liturgy that weekend so that they can be a face to the new students and parents regarding CCM and be available to answer questions about the parish and CCM. The hope is to show parents and students that there is an active parish dedicated to college students that is near campus and has many activities and events for students.

Youth Ministry-Joan H. shared that there may be some changes to religious education for K-12 and that she is planning a listening session for May 27th to allow parishioners with and without children to express

their thoughts regarding how religious education should look for the next year. She had scheduled four listening sessions in April and had no participation. She also shared that she will have one youth minister for next year and expressed the importance of having young adults in the youth ministry program. Council members who have children involved in youth ministry provided positive feedback about the youth groups and validated the need for youth ministers.

Joan also explained the role of a youth minister and that they lead the junior high and high school youth groups. These are paid positions so she meets with them on a weekly basis. They also help coordinate confirmation. Joan stressed the need for more Virtus trained parent volunteers so that students could participate in more activities outside of youth group.

She shared that 1st Communion will take place at all liturgies this weekend and that 30 children are participating. Confirmation will be held on Monday the 18th at Blessed Trinity and we have 30 students participating.

Fr. Jeff- Encourage all the pastoral council members to attend Confirmation on Monday the 18th. Reported that the Thank you dinner went very well and we hope to continue it as an annual event.

II. **Monthly Standing Parish committee/group.** None

III. Old Business

- a. **Reviewed the minutes from last month** One addition was made to the minutes. There was a suggestion that the different ministry groups provide a brief overview of their ministry at the end of liturgy at different times during the year.
- b. **Continued Pastoral Council Planning-**Reviewed the Evangelism section of the Pastoral Planning Book. Council members discussed what does Evangelism mean to us. Some suggested that personal contact with other parishioners is a good way to evangelize. Fr. Jeff shared what is currently the protocol when we have new parishioners. It includes a letter from him and a personal contact from Sr. Doris and Judy Fredenberg, Stewardship Council Chair. We have also had welcome potluck for new members in the past. Another suggestion was to use the projector screen to show information on Stewardship however some felt this might be a turn off to parishioners so more discussion is needed. It was suggested that we include the 7 elements of a parish in our retreat in September.

- c. **Change in By-laws**-Cathy shared the revised bylaws for when the council will meet and the changes made to the standing committees. The next step is to post in the bulletin.

IV. New business (Fr. Jeff)

- a. **Parish Finances**- Fr. Jeff shared that the finance council has met on two occasions regarding the parish finances due to the fact we have a projected \$4000 deficit for the end of our fiscal year. The council worked hard not to cut any salaries however we did have to cut one youth ministry position. The hope is to not have to make any cuts to salaries or positions. CCM usually receives \$4000 from CTK for their program and it was decided to cut that from CCM's budget and they will operate on their grants. This does not have a negative affect on CCM since they are cutting back on the number of interns and the service ministers will not be paid at the same rate as the interns.

The diocese does want each parish to put together a contingency plan and this would include eliminating positions and programs.

Fr. Jeff shared a letter that will be mailed to all members and put in the bulletin for the next two Sundays from the Finance Council explaining our financial situation and asking that if each family gave an additional \$1 a week that we could have raised \$35,000. We discussed that only 25% of the parish contributes and it was suggested instead of focusing on those who are not engaged, we focus on the engaged and hope that those who are engaged will engage others.

Next meeting: June 9, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Prayer:

We will be meeting at the home of Cathy Schwenk and have a potluck. Cathy will send out details by email.

Monthly Parish Standing Committee-None

V. Closing Prayer

Joan B. closed in prayer.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Bartkowski
Parish Secretary