

Approved 02/27/07

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – January 16, 2007

7:00 P.M. - Youth Room

Church Of The Nativity

Evening Prayer, led by Fr. Dale, was held at 7:05 p.m. prior to a joint meeting of the Parish Council and Stewardship Council.

Reflection questions:

1. How can I immerse myself in the Scriptures in order that they might become a living part of my life?
2. What are my favorite stories from the Bible and what do they teach me?

The joint meeting convened at 7:13 p.m. after Evening Prayer for the purpose of reviewing the first draft of the 2007 Parish Budget. Duane Koble handed out the proposed budget to all in attendance. Al Peach from the Stewardship Council noted that the 2006 year ended with a reserve of \$139,000 due to a successful pledge campaign and presented a balanced budget of \$1,123,844.00 for the 2007 year. Individual income and expense items were reviewed in detail and questions were addressed by Al Peach and Duane Koble.

The joint meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Chairman Ken Jablonsky called the meeting of the Pastoral Council to order at 8:00 p.m. and the Council opened with prayer.

New members, Greg Schmalz and Cindy Hutchins were welcomed to the Parish Council and each of the council members introduced themselves.

Present: Fr. Dale Kinzler, Duane Koble, Marilyn Bjoralt, Ken Jablonsky, Brenda Lang, Terri Dahl, Cindy Hutchins, Bev Nesler, Sarah Schlicht, Greg Schmalz, Leon Senn, and Joel Simons. Al Peach, the Corporate Lay Secretary, did not stay for the meeting of the Pastoral Council.

Absent: Fr. Bill Gerlach, Betty Hund, and Kevin Wolf.

Minutes from the 11/28/2006 Parish Council meeting were accepted by unanimous consensus.

Director of Administration's Report

Duane Koble handed out his report and reviewed the following:

1. The annual Nativity/Olivet Christmas Party was quite successful, serving 1,000 people. All aspects of the party are being evaluated. Duane noted how generous the parish community was for this project. Recommendation was made to transfer excess funds of approximately \$5,000 from the Christmas Party to the Easter Party to continue our stewardship to the community.
2. Three of the parish staff attended a 3-day conference in January on "Fashion Me a People" regarding faith formation. The parish community will benefit from these "best practices" presented at this conference.
3. Joe Buchl has accepted the role as chairperson for the 2007 God's Gift Appeal Campaign which will begin in February. Nativity exceeded its 2006 goal by 10% at \$117,295. The Diocese has set Nativity's 2007 goal at \$120,000.

4. A Memorandum of Understanding has been received for the use of Merit Care South University's facility for emergency purposes during school hours or evening religious education classes. Students will be temporarily relocated at Merit Care for their safety, if needed.
5. A major software upgrade was completed on the computer server so that all staff will have access to the software at their workstations.
6. Due to Ron & Marlene Hoffart's stewardship gift, the parish is moving forward with the implementation of Nativity Anew II. An Anew II Planning Committee will be formed. Betty Hund and Paul Leier will co-chair this committee.
7. The Stewardship Phon-a-Thon held in December reached 28% of the parish to express thanks to our parishioners who have contributed towards stewardship in our parish community this past year.
8. Duane Koble noted that property values throughout the Diocese were undervalued on an average of 30%. The Nativity facility has been assessed at just under \$8,000,000. Catholic Mutual will continue to be the insurance carrier and valuations will be increased approximately 3% a year over a 3-year period.
9. Matt Fischer, one of the youth ministers on the pastoral staff, has submitted his resignation to be effective May 31, 2007. We are grateful for his 6½ years of ministry service to Nativity.
10. Lighting should be installed by February. Total bid of \$55,600 will replace the dimming system, check lighting at the peak of the roof, accent lighting types, and emergency egress lighting per code. The project is funded from the Nativity Anew account.
11. Construction of the meeting room addition is moving forward, with the inside work moving ahead on target.
12. Sr. Juliana and Duane Koble met with Social Justice Care & Share Committee to determine where the parish's stewardship of 4% will be distributed in 2007.
13. A monthly financial summary was included in the report. Please direct any questions to Duane Koble.

Associate Pastor's Comments

Fr. Dale reviewed Fr. Bill's Associate Pastor's report in his absence. His focus this month was on Nativity's Social Justice Fund. This fund is a tithe of 4% of envelope income to social justice and charitable concerns in our parish, our community, and the world. The two aspects of the fund are:

1. Regular contributions to local organizations to directly assist or advocate for those in need.
2. Care and Share Fund, which assists parishioners in particular need and those who come to Nativity's door for help. Sr. Juliana, Duane Koble, Fr. Dale, and Fr. Bill assess and administer the funds accordingly.

Through these ways, Nativity is the "Light of Christ" to our community.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Dale then gave his Pastor's Report. He noted the various adult spiritual opportunities within Nativity for spiritual enrichment and growth:

- "Going Deeper" series designed for parents while their children are in faith formation.
- "Great Adventure Bible Timeline" bible study series to beginning in February. Due to such a large interest in this study, the series will be offered on Sunday afternoons and possibly Monday evenings.
- Men's Prayer Breakfast two Saturdays per month and the start of a Women's Prayer Breakfast.

- Fr. Dale will participate in an ecumenical service of prayer for Christian Unity on January 21st at 4:00 p.m. at the invitation from the pastor of the First Congregational Church. This is also the date when Nativity's Parish Mission will begin.

Fr. Dale informed the Council that Nativity was one of two parishes that would be opening to new pastorates this spring. Fr. Dale requested that the parish pray for a pastoral successor who will continue a path of affirmation and encouragement of the good work of this staff and its parish members. He expressed his gratefulness for the many blessings to serve Nativity for the past 12 years.

Old Business

Ken Jablonsky requested an update on David Opsahl's Parish Visitation project. Duane Koble stated that he will be meeting with him to define the mission, vision, objectives, and strategy for the project. He will report to the Council as the project progresses.

New Business

1. Duane Koble requested and received unanimous consensus to move forward with the 2007 Budget as presented earlier by the Stewardship Council; and that he will provide monthly financial reports throughout the year.
2. Parish Council structure was discussed. Article II, Section 3 identifies six liaison positions. The following was noted:
 - a) Kevin Wolf asked Marilyn Bjoralt to inform the council that he had contacted Kevin Capouch about his intent as a council member for 2007. Kevin Capouch has chosen to step off the council at this time.
 - b) The Fargo Catholic Schools Network (FCSN) liaison position needs to be added to the By-Laws. Kevin Wolf is the FCSN liaison. FCSN has a different term than other liaison positions, which could be noted in the By-Laws. It is a 3-year term that can renew one time only and the term runs from school year to school year.
 - c) At-Large Members are not defined in the By-Laws. Duane Koble noted that for this size of parish, up to two At-Large members are recommended.
 - d) No minimum number of Parish Council members is identified in the By-Laws.
 - e) Two liaison positions remain unfilled; Parish Faith Life Commission and Social Justice. After the duties of the liaison were outlined for each of these open positions, new council member, Greg Schmalz, agreed to act as liaison for the Parish Faith Life Commission. Several parishioners were suggested by council members to be contacted to serve on the Parish Council.
 - f) Recording Secretary Brenda Lang asked if all members would review the Parish Council member list that was mailed to them and to contact her with any corrections or additions. If any member is in need of a binder, call Brenda or Duane.
 - g) The change in language regarding "trustees" was noted by Duane Koble. Al Peach is Corporate Lay Treasurer and Marilyn Bjoralt is Corporate Lay Secretary. Terms are now 1 year vs. 3 years and the Pastor makes the appointment for these positions.

The issues noted above will be reviewed for recommended by-law changes at another meeting.

Chairman Ken Jablonsky then requested each liaison to report any additional information they might have to their written reports.

Council Committee Reports

- FCSN: Marilyn Bjoralt reported on Kevin Wolf's behalf since he was absent. The FCSN Board has outlined its strategic plans and goals and committees have been organized. National Catholic

School Week is the last week of January and several events are being held that week. Catholic Schools are also looking at conducting a capital campaign for specific improvements.

- Liturgy Commission: Terri Dahl noted that introductions in the pews will continue to be encouraged at the beginning of each Mass. This will be mentioned in the bulletin and continued until the procedure becomes more familiar. Soup & Salad Luncheons will be held on Wednesdays during Lent. Christmas liturgies are being evaluated due to concerns with the huge number of people who attended the 4:00 p.m. service.
- Youth Representative: Sarah Schlicht reported that there are several LinC members who would be willing to do pulpit talks about LinC (Life in Christ) and WOW (Wired on Wednesdays) to extend an invitation to our youth about these two groups. The Council recommended they work with Abby Rheault for the pulpit talks. Sarah also reported that both groups are planning a ski trip; LinC made baskets for the Nokomis Child Care Center; and that Matt Fischer questioned how to involve the parish in their upcoming mission trips to Minneapolis and to Peru in two years. The Council recommended that an article be written by the youth for the Voice about the mission trips and how the parish can assist them. Express the need and request assistance. The Pastoral Council members expressed their support for the efforts of our parish youth.
- Health Advisory/Parish Nurse Committee: Joel Simons had e-mailed his report as well as provided copies at the meeting. He highlighted the two medical incidents that occurred in December and that further training is needed regarding where the medical equipment is located in the church and how to use it. It was also determined that a written Incident/Accident Report should be implemented.

The next Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Due to the Lenten schedule, Chapel will be held at 7:00 p.m. on February 27th. Otherwise, Chapel has been discontinued and replaced with Evening Prayer at the beginning of the Council meeting. Expect more of the Pastoral Council meetings to be held in the Youth Room in the future.

Recording Secretary Brenda Lang stated that she has binders of old Pastoral Council minutes that were given to her when she took this position two years ago and questioned if they could be stored at the church. With the new meeting room addition, there will be an archival room for such a purpose. Duane Koble instructed Brenda to give the material to Sharon Wolf who is in charge of the archives. Leon Senn suggested archiving material to CD, as well as other parish documents. He noted that there are companies who do such work at a reasonable cost. This suggestion will be considered after further research.

Leon Senn questioned if the council and committee members were listed at any time in the bulletin? Bev Nesler noted that the Pastoral Council is listed in the Voice, which provides more space than the bulletin for this type of information. The Voice is also the best venue for explanations of each committee. All members are encouraged to submit information at any time to Chris Steffan for the Voice. Fr. Bill had prepared an outline of each commission, council, and committee. Fr. Bill had also prepared a timeline during the year that includes when time & talent is requested from the parish.

Bev Nesler encouraged the council members to check out Nativity's new website that Frank LaLonde had created.

There being no further business, Chairman Ken Jablonsky led Closing Prayer and adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lang
Recording Secretary