

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – May 22, 2007
6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room
Church Of The Nativity

Chairperson Ken Jablonsky led the Pastoral Council in Evening Prayer at 6:35 p.m. The council meeting was then called to order pursuant to notice by Chairperson Ken Jablonsky at 6:50 p.m.

Present: Fr. Dale Kinzler, Fr. Bill Gerlach, Duane Koble, Terri Dahl, Bonnie Faller, Betty Hund, Cindy Hutchins, Ken Jablonsky, Brenda Lang, Bev Nesler, Sarah Schlicht, Greg Schmalz, Kevin Wolf, and Deanery Rep Jean Hannig.

Absent: Leon Senn, Joel Simons, Corporate Lay Treasurer Al Peach and Corporate Lay Secretary Marilyn Bjoralt.

Minutes from the 04/22/2007 Parish Council meeting were approved as written by unanimous consensus.

Director of Administration's Report

Duane Koble handed out his report and reviewed the following topics:

1. Worship Space Lighting Update – The lighting system is in its final stages and awaiting the contractor to test the system.
2. Nativity Leadership Transition Team (NLTT) – A 12-person transition team led by Ken Jablonsky has been formed to address issues with the reassignment of Fr. Dale and Fr. Bill. An evening of celebration to honor Fr. Dale and Fr. Bill is scheduled for June 12, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. The transition team is also in the process of planning for the arrival of Fr. Kevin Boucher and Fr. Gary Luiten on June 20, 2007. The new priests will be at Nativity on June 4, 2007 for a tour and welcome. They are scheduled to visit with the Pastoral and Stewardship Councils from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for those who are available to attend.
3. God's Gift of Appeal – Is at 93% of the \$120,000 Goal.
4. New Meeting Rooms – In keeping with the theme of Nativity, the North Room has been named "Nazareth" and the South Room "Bethlehem". The family bathroom is also open for use. Only minor work is left to complete in the new rooms and outside landscaping is in the planning stages to complete this project.
5. Repair of Parking Lot Inlet/Manhole – Has been completed in the North Parking Lot of the campus at a cost of \$3,500. Northern Improvement Company has been asked to also check the other inlet/manhole.
6. Parish Bookkeeper Position – Renelda Hushka has accepted the position. Mari Jo Sigl is relocating to Bismarck, ND with her family. We are grateful for her dedicated service.
7. Otto Bremer Foundation Grant – The parish office of Health Ministry and Pastoral Ministry's grant proposal request for \$8,000 to address health needs of our parish members is being reviewed; with a decision to be made on May 24, 2007.
8. Summary of April Financials – Reflects the finances on track. Summary Profit & Loss Statement for the first four months of the year was also attached.
9. Schedule of Upcoming Events – Duane asked the Council to mark their calendars for the following events:
 - 08/22/2007 – Courtyard Party
 - 08/23/2007 – Staff Retreat

- 09/04/2007 – Leadership Planning Meeting for council, commissions and committees to set vision for the 2008 year
10. Review of Financial Procedures – Was completed by Fr. Dale and Duane Koble with several recommendations to improve procedures. Sacramental records were also reviewed for completeness. A report of the review will be ready in a month. Duane remarked that the review was a good experience.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Dale did not have a written report this month due to being preoccupied with transition duties. He recently visited the staff and facilities at the church in Devils Lake to prepare for his reassignment. The Knights of Columbus will assist on packing day. Fr. Dale mentioned that he will be holding a “rummage release” on June 9 and 10, if anyone is interested in any items.

Fr. Dale expanded on the financial review process that Duane Koble had reported about. He stated that Duane is doing a great job with accountability of duties. The financial review will assist in improving internal controls and protecting the integrity of the Sunday collection. Fr. Dale commented that the funds and fiscal management at Nativity have been handled very well and that Duane will be implementing the protocol that the diocese is requesting of all the parishes. Duane noted that he is recommending security workshops to be scheduled with the staff and will review any new procedures.

Fr. Dale also stated that the corporate board is required to meet annually, which was already held on August 22, 2006.

Associate Pastor's Report

Fr. Bill Gerlach handed out his report that highlighted the ministries that he has been a part of during his three years at Nativity that included:

- The collaboration of Evangelization and Faith Formation leading to merging of their two commissions into the Parish Faith Life Commission which has fostered communication, planning, and new ideas.
- Whole Parish Faith Formation from just children's faith formation to family formation to whole parish faith formation. Nativity continues to move forward with developing the faith formation of all parishioners.
- The Youth Ministry and Mission Trip to Chimbote have been experiences beyond his expectations. LinC's small group leaders, Matt Fischer and Alex Kingsley shared their appreciation for his devotion to youth ministry and they were all pleased that they had found the right balance of priest presence and peer time.
- Commented on how blessed Nativity is with the strong team they have for the RCIA program.
- Also very impressed with the stewardship from Nativity parishioners and the opportunity to utilize his gifts to assist with the Time & Talent process and Discernment Process.

Old Business

Fr. Bill reviewed the following information that he has developed for future reference regarding the discernment process.

- “Discernment Timeline” that includes the 3-4 week process leading up to Discernment Sunday. He reviewed the steps that the staff completes prior to that Sunday. The following elements need to be addressed:
 - a) Who will complete the details leading up to Discernment Sunday?

- b) Pastoral Council liaisons need to ask their commissions or committees to review a copy of the brochure that describes their commission or committee for accuracy, so that any changes may be made accordingly prior to Discernment Sunday. Duane was asked to check with the Stewardship Council.
- c) Who will facilitate the process on Discernment Sunday? Recommended a neutral person, someone from the parish, or if either of the new priests would be interested. And then the question of who would accept the responsibility to find this person?

Fr. Bill had also included in the packet a detailed breakdown of the process that he had used during Discernment Sunday last year. Discussion followed regarding how well the process had gone last year and suggestions regarding who might lead the process. With Fr. Bill's excellent model for the process, the Council decided to table these decisions until the new priests arrive; review the process with them; and secure their input regarding discernment.

- Fr. Bill stated that the Fall Festival is an important and wonderful fundraiser and community builder for Nativity and that proceeds from the Fall Festival are a key part of the budget. He recommended that a parishioner be asked to chair the event and that one of the priests act as liaison to this committee. Fr. Bill asked if the Council would lead the discovery process to find a chairperson for the Fall Festival, as planning needs to begin now. He opened the floor for discussion.

Bev Nesler stated that she had asked her family if they would be interested in chairing the Festival and they agreed to do so. Her brother-in-law will be an excellent resource person since he has chaired Mardi Gras events. Kevin Wolf recommended that council members still look for other people or a family to shadow the Nesler family throughout the process to facilitate continued leadership for the future. The Council thanked Bev and her family for stepping forward in this ministry. The Fall Festival is scheduled for Sunday-October 7, 2007.

There being no New Business, Chairperson Ken Jablonsky asked each liaison for their Committee Report.

- Parish Faith Life Commission: Greg Schmalz handed out his report that highlighted the following:
 - Spring Salad Buffet is being reviewed in detail. The event raised \$1,700 plus a \$1,000 matching grant from Catholic Aid.
 - Details are in place for the Courtyard Party to be held on August 22, 2007.
 - The Nativity Faith Formation Scholarship Fund assisted in covering costs of \$1,140 for unpaid Faith Formation fees.
 - The new part-time Youth Minister is Kellie Bruckbauer.
 - Farewell party for Fr. Dale and Fr. Bill is scheduled for June 12, 2007.
- FCSN: Kevin Wolf handed out the report and reviewed the following issues:
 - Enrollment for 2008 is at 1,000+.
 - Capital campaign for the facilities & reduction of debt is moving forward.
 - The Shanley Auction was a huge success.
 - New members are joining FCSN due to term expirations. Kevin Wolf reported that he agreed to renew for another 3-year term on the FCSN Council to represent Nativity.
 - Concert benefit was held in May for the Edgerton family. Kyle Edgerton had surgery on May 16th and all were asked to keep him in their prayers.
 - Committee was formed a month ago to replace the basketball hoops in the gymnasium. Several donations for this project reflected the wonderful stewardship of this community.

- Deanery Report: Jean Hannig handed out minutes from the May 7, 2007 Deanery II Pastoral Council Meeting. Several issues were discussed:
 - a) An evangelization handbook will be put out by the diocese to provide parishes with various ideas to consider for their parish.
 - b) Bishop Aquila is promoting stewardship on behalf of the parishes through tithing and has a DVD to be shown at Mass.
 - c) With the growing problem of pornography, Bishop Aquila would like a video shown at Mass that was put out by the Archdiocese of Kansas City. The deanery representatives will view the video first to determine if this is appropriate to present at Mass. It was agreed that the issue needs to be addressed and to determine what the church and parents can do. Tom Frei, Director of Catholic Education and Formation, is looking for resources to help people addicted to pornography.
 - d) The diocese was concerned that parishes were not handling their finances adequately; therefore, an auditor is visiting all of the parishes and evaluating their procedures. The auditor visited Nativity on May 21, 2007.

Jean Hannig requested that the Pastoral Council members are welcome to bring any ideas or concerns to her to share at the deanery meetings. Next meeting to be held September 2007.

- Health Advisory: Betty Hund reported on behalf of Liaison Joel Simons who was absent tonight.
 - She stated that the committee is looking forward to the decision from the Otto Bremer Foundation for the grant request as reported by Director of Administration Duane Koble.
 - The committee continues to work with MeritCare regarding preparedness for a pandemic flu epidemic. Nativity is in a unique position to assist MeritCare with the process due to our location.
- Buildings and Grounds: Betty Hund reported that they are preparing to complete the landscaping outside the new meeting rooms as weather permits. Anyone who can assist is welcome to contact Betty. Two trees were replaced by the rectory.

The Planning & Processing Committee continues to meet and is in the process of gathering and reviewing information from Nativity Anew1. They are far from preparing a formal plan; as they first see the need to assess the parishes' needs, strengths, and weaknesses; and then plan to form small focus groups.

Help is also needed to give the rectory a thorough cleaning between priests. Tentative date is Tuesday-June 19th. Contact Betty again if you are able to help!

- Liturgy Commission: Terri Dahl had e-mailed her report.
 - She reported that new banners have arrived for the worship space. Issue of flowering plants was discussed and due to high maintenance, it was determined to limit flowering plants to the Easter and Christmas seasons. Outside banners are also being considered.
 - The Nativity Choir is active from October through April. There are many new choir members. Abby Rheault is scheduling small ensembles to lead the music ministry and additional organists have been secured through the college.
 - It was noted that the Sacrament of Anointing is offered two times a year at Nativity and that not all parishes offer this sacrament. The commission discussed continuing providing prayer cards at this service, but there is a need for assistance in making these items.
 - Evening of Remembrance is held around All Soul's Day at Nativity for those who had a death in the family during the past year. This has been well attended and will be continued. Prayers and sympathies are noted in the church bulletin when the family calls into the church. Bev Nesler will include this in the bulletin periodically to remind parishioners that they will need to call the church for it to be printed in the bulletin.

- Come To The Light attendance was down this year. More pulpit announcements will be made in the future.
 - Evening Prayer was changed this year from being held in the Chapel on Tuesday evening to being held prior to each council/commission/committee meetings.
 - The Bell Choir director has confirmed she can return to continue this ministry.
 - The Liturgy Committee is in need of additional members for the Representative for the Parish At-Large and for the Social Concerns Committee.
- Social Justice: Bonnie Faller reported on the following from the report she handed out:
 - The Mental Health Insurance Parity Bill in Congress was reviewed.
 - Melissa Hund sent a report regarding her studies in Costa Rica and Nicaragua.
 - Margaret Bitz is searching for teen representation on the Social Justice Committee.
 - Nativity parish is set to work at the Habitat Project/Housing Women Build on 07/11/07.
 - Senator Conrad was pleased that the committee had presented the Bishop's Principles on Health Care and will use this information in future discussions.
 - Funds from the Lenten Luncheons was given to Central Cities Ministry. Holy Thursday offering was given to the Dorothy Day Food Pantry and the faith formation youth project funds went to the Heifer Project with the Social Justice Committee adding to their fund.
 - The Social Justice Committee requested that when the Pastoral Council meets again, to consider the issue of recycling at the Nativity Church and School. Bonnie was directed to visit with Duane Koble and Cindy Hutchins regarding this request.
 - Youth Ministry: Sarah Schlicht reported that the youth softball team starts in June. They have many 7-12 grade girls on the team and are in need of more boys to sign up. Sarah noted that this would be her last meeting with the Pastoral Council. The council members thanked her for her participation.
 - Staff Member Representative: Cindy Hutchins stated there was no new information to report at this time.

There being no other new business, Chairperson Ken Jablonsky announced that the Parish Council will hold its summer social gathering on Tuesday-June 26, 2007. Kevin Wolf offered to host the social again at his home. Bev Nesler will e-mail the council members regarding the pot luck sign-up.

The Chairperson also reminded the council members to mark June 12th on their calendars to attend the farewell for Fr. Dale Kinzler and Fr. Bill Gerlach.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. and ended with Closing Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lang

Recording Secretary