

Approved 10/24/06

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – September 19, 2006

6:30 P.M. in Middle Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Vice Chair Ken Jablonsky.

Present: Fr. Dale Kinzler, Fr. Bill Gerlach, Duane Koble, Jean Hannig, Kevin Wolf, Terri Dahl, Betty Hund, Ken Jablonsky, Brenda Lang, Bev Nesler, and Bob Wold.

Absent: Marilyn Bjoralt, Kevin Capouch, Leon Senn, and Kevin Wolf.

Minutes from the August 22, 2006 Pastoral Council meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

Director of Administration's Report

Duane Koble handed out his report and commented on the following:

- Duane thanked everyone for the warm welcome he has received at Nativity and patience throughout this transition. This past month, he has spent time visiting with each staff member to understand how the entire staff ministers to this parish.
- Noted that Fr. Dale was granted permission by Bishop Aquila to proceed with the final drawings and bids for the new meeting rooms.
- Plans to visit all areas of ministry boards, commissions, and committees during the year to learn how each area relates to the Mission Statement of the parish.
- Tricorne Audio, Inc. from Fargo has arrived to begin the process of design and installation of a new gymnasium sound system.
- Has reviewed all of the Building and Contents Fixed Assets of Nativity and verified that all assets and other areas are adequately insured.
- The preliminary budget process for 2007 has been initiated with the staff.
- A condensed financial as of 08/31/2006 was included in the report.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Dale complimented Fr. Bill Gerlach on his reports he has provided throughout the year regarding his portfolio. Fr. Dale reflected on the areas of his own participation within the parish and community in the area of faith formation, which have included:

- The Women's Tuesday afternoon Scripture sharing group.
- The "Doctrinaires" study and discussion led by David Fagerberg in the past.
- Lenten sharing groups.
- Study groups stemming from a common book or periodical.
- Bi-monthly Sunday afternoon Bible Study that Fr. Dale continues to lead; and now preparing for the next year's study based on the theme, "Come to the Light".
- Chesterton study group is a new group formed to reflect on the theological works of G.K. Chesterton, facilitated by Bruce Dahl.
- Men's Prayer Breakfast which meets twice a month following the 8:00 a.m. Mass.
- Participating with the Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) men's and women's groups.

Fr. Dale expressed the fact that the parish staff is available as a resource, to assist, and support the continuum of sharing groups that have arisen over time.

The Council then attended the 7:00 p.m. evening chapel service.

Reflection questions for discussion:

1. What evidence do you see in the world around you that many do not accept Jesus' teaching on power and ambition?
2. Why is it wrong to feel envy for what belongs to another?

Associate Pastor's Comments

Fr. Bill Gerlach focused on the Fall Festival scheduled for October 1st and noted the challenges in planning and finding leadership for the event. Tables will be rented again as they were for the Easter party, which relieves a major difficulty experienced in the past. Hospitality will again be extended to newcomers to the parish, with two free tickets for the brunch. The Festival is more than a financial event to support the parish's various programs, but is also a community-sharing event. But with all events, the need for parishioners to provide support and to participate in the event continues to be the main challenge for future reflection.

Old Business

- ◆ **Liturgical Space Update:** Fr. Dale reported that Ulteig Engineering is completing its review of their final concerns for lighting in the church. Richard Seitz has been commissioned to sculpt a life size free-standing sculpture of the Madonna and Child, as a reflection of the mission of bearing Christ to the World as Mary bore Christ.
- ◆ **New Meeting Rooms Plan Update:** Duane Koble reported that excavation started on schedule on August 29th with no difficulties. The foundation has been laid and with weather permitting, gas and electric lines will be connected to the main building. Delivery of steel may be the main concern. Duane reviewed the copy of the blueprints that are being displayed during the weekend services. Funds of \$364,000 are in place for this project. Inside furnishings are yet to be determined, but Duane is forming a committee to address this issue and any additional funding needed for this part of the project. Completion date is scheduled for Spring of 2007. Duane will provide an update on the project in an upcoming bulletin.
- ◆ **By-Laws:** Fr. Bill conducted the Second Reading of Amendments to the Pastoral Council By-Laws. The changes affect Article II, Section 3 and Article V, Section 2 to reflect the merger of the Faith Formation Commission and Evangelization Committee to form the Parish Faith Life Commission and adjust the renumbering within the specific Section. Vice Chair Ken Jablonsky requested approval of the proposed amendments as presented. Unanimous consensus was secured by Council.
- ◆ **Long Range Planning Update:** Fr. Bill reported that the staff recently reviewed the long range plan approved last spring and the various goals and objectives within the plan. He noted that many of these goals are being initiated. The staff plans to choose one or two of the seven goals and focus on that goal(s) throughout the coming year. Fr. Bill will have a report next month regarding which goal(s) were chosen and the direction they plan to take.
- ◆ **Other Old Business:** Bev Nesler stated that she had mailed the sympathy card from the Pastoral Council to Bonnie Faller and the memorial donation for Jim Faller will be sent this week to the Roger Maris Cancer Center.

New Business

Committee Reports: Vice Chair Ken Jablonsky asked if there were any committee reports from the liaisons present at the meeting.

- **Health Advisory** – Betty Hund reported for Joel Simons. Judy Schwinghammer has been welcomed as Parish Nurse. She has already found more than enough duties to fill her part-time position. Issues from the Health Survey conducted last year have been tabulated and prioritized and will be summarized in the bulletin soon. Mental health was recognized as a major concern. A date is being finalized for Psychologist Dr. Ken Christianson to address the issue of suicide. A speaker is also being arranged for the LINC group. Other health care priorities to be addressed in the future will be weight, diabetes, and heart disease.
- **Youth Ministry** – Bev Nesler reported that with Faith Formation starting on October 4th, many of the 9th graders have signed up for LINC after being involved with WOW. The format will be similar as last year's, to include fun, service, and discussion, centered in prayer. A ski trip and speaker are also planned for this year.
- **Liturgy** – Terri Dahl stated she had recently e-mailed the Liturgy Commission report, but also handed out copies. Parts of the report were discussed:
 1. Due to the difficulty in finding qualified keyboard musicians, the decision was made to pay a stipend for this service.
 2. Diane Gerst, who has been conducting Evening Prayer for the past 15 years, will be moving to her lake home. Therefore, a new coordinator will be needed for this ministry.
 3. Attendance at summer liturgies was evaluated and determined that Nativity has sufficient numbers to continue the same number of scheduled liturgies.
- **Deanery** - Trustee Jean Hannig reported on the Deanery meeting. Each parish shared their evangelical activities. No parish volunteered to be a pilot parish at this time to conduct an outreach evangelization program. The age for confirmation was discussed. So as to provide uniform data on the issue, each parish was asked to provide how the faith formation attendance changed from 4th-6th grade to the Junior/Senior High level for the past three years.
- **Social Justice** – Bob Wold e-mailed the report to the Council that outlined the various funding requests the committee has received.

Fr. Bill Gerlach mentioned that Ellory Eggermont had let him know that she had spoken in the chapel service at Oak Grove High School, which she attends, about her trip to Peru.

Fr. Bill also reported that approximately 90 students from Shanley will be at the church for a half day on Deacon Day. They will work on various projects such as cleaning, trimming hedges, landscaping clean-up, moving items to storage, assisting at Nativity School, etc.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:42 and closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lang

Recording Secretary