

Nativity Pastoral Council Meeting

Tuesday – September 25, 2007

6:30 P.M. – Nazareth Room

Church of The Nativity

As Acting Chairman, Fr. Kevin Boucher opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. in Ken Jablonsky's absence.

Bonnie Faller led the Pastoral Council in Evening Prayer.

Present: Fr. Kevin Boucher, Fr. Gary Luiten, Duane Koble, Terri Dahl, Bonnie Faller, Betty Hund, Cindy Hutchins, Bev Nesler, Greg Schmalz, Joel Simons, Kevin Wolf, and Ken Jablonsky.

Absent: Leon Senn, Corporate Lay Secretary Marilyn Bjoralt, Corporate Lay Treasurer Al Peach, Deanery Representative Jean Hannig, and Recording Secretary Brenda Lang.

Minutes from the 08-28-2007 Pastoral Council meeting were approved as written.

Director of Administration's Report

Duane Koble reviewed his report that was e-mailed to all members. He passed out the financial report which was not e-mailed due to confidentiality.

1. Ministry is Happening – Programs are in full swing. On Wednesday evenings, all rooms are in use.
2. What is Consensus? – Duane e-mailed a nine-page handout, "Basics of Consensus," which will be reviewed and discussed at several Council meetings. Duane will also work with some of the other committees, councils, and boards of the parish on this topic.
3. Sunday Morning Nursery – Chris Steffan, Adult Faith Life Coordinator, is trying to find a coordinator for the Nursery. This person will be paid a stipend for their services. A notice regarding this position will be run in the bulletin one more week. If there is no response, the Newman Centers will be contacted. A background check will be done on the person hired.
4. Evangelization – Refugees – Burnundians – Drivers are needed to bring two families to Mass. A FCSN van is available for use. Clothing is also being found for them. Dave Opsahl is helping as part of his service project for the deaconate.
5. FCSN – Shanley High School Deacon Day – On Thursday, Sept. 27th, approximately 75 students from Shanley will do service project work at Nativity Church and School.
6. Safe Environment – The Bishop's *Charter for Child Protection* requires parishes to have a program to insure a safe environment for their students. The educational component is called "Child Lures." Every staff person and volunteer who has contact with young people must do the following:
 - A. Have a background check

- B. Acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Diocese of Fargo's *Code of Conduct*, along with reading, understanding, and agreeing to conduct themselves in conformity with the Code.
- C. Acknowledge viewing the Diocese of Fargo *Sexual Boundaries* video. Parent training is scheduled for January 2, 2008, and the training for students in Grades 1-12 will be on January 9, 2008.
7. Time & Talent Survey – About 250 parishioners have completed the survey and the responses have been entered into the Time & Talent data base.
 8. Health Advisory – Prenatal Hospice Conference – On October 22nd, Amy Kuebelbeck, author of *Waiting with Gabriel*, will speak at Nativity about cherishing a baby's life, however brief it may be. On October 23rd, she will also speak at a conference for health care professionals. Both are sponsored in memory of Johanna Grace Nistler.
 9. Planning and Processing Committee – Members have spent much time preparing for Nativity Anew II.
 10. Summary Profit and Loss Statement – Currently total income is at 61% of budget while 67% of the budget has been used. Falling behind over the summer is common.

Consensus Discussion – Duane facilitated a discussion regarding Consensus. He asked council members to read the handout, pray about consensus, and give it some time and thought. Consensus will be discussed again at our next meeting.

Fall Festival – Sunday, October 7th, 8:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Bev Nesler reported that the committee had their final meeting and everything is coming along well. Breakfast will include French toast, two kinds of eggs, ham and roast beef carving stations, and fruit (with and without pineapple). Activities include a Bake Sale, Heavenly Baskets, Dollar Raffle Baskets, Bottle Lotto, Party Central (13 tables), Dip'n Dots, Face Painting, Pumpkin Decorating, five Games for Kids, and Bingo in the Bethlehem Room.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Kevin Boucher's portfolio includes Administration, Capital Campaigns, Council/Committee Assignments, Diocese of Fargo Connection, FCSN, Knights of Columbus, Liturgy, Nativity Elementary School, Sullivan-Shanley Schools, and Staff Hiring.

Fr. Kevin has met several times with the Planning & Processing Committee. He will be interviewing architects next week.

He has been visiting patients in our health facilities and responding to emergency calls for Catholics from other parishes. He hopes to make more home visits to the sick in the coming months.

Fr. Kevin is posting his homilies on the Nativity website and is considering making audio tapes of them.

He noted that Presbyteral Days are this week at CMS. The keynote speaker is Francisco "Paco" Gavrillides and the topic of reflection is "The Conversion, Transformation and Mobilization of Men."

Associate Pastor's Report

Fr. Gary Luiten's portfolio includes Baptismal Preparation, Faith Formation, Fall Festival Liaison, Marriage Preparation, Pastoral Ministry, RCIA/Evangelization, Sister Parish, and Youth Ministry. Social Justice is also now in Fr. Kevin's portfolio.

Faith Formation begins Sept. 26th. Fr. Gary will give talks to WOW a couple times this year and will attend LINC every week.

He and Fr. Kevin take turns presiding at school Masses and visit classrooms every Thursday morning.

Fr. Gary will be facilitating The Great Adventure Bible Timeline classes with Stacy Gallagher.

He will accompany our youth and their advisors on a mission trip to Chimbote next summer.

RCIA begins October 8th and Fr. Gary will help teach the sessions.

Old Business

Discernment – Duane will assist Fr. Kevin with the Discernment Process which will be held in November.

Committee Reports

- **Youth Ministry** – Kelly Bruckbauer is our new Youth Minister working with Lynn Stasch. Regular meetings begin October 3rd with WOW at 6:30 P.M. and LINC at 7:45 P.M. The youth will sell Fair Trade coffee and chocolate again this year beginning at the Fall Festival.
- **Building and Grounds / Planning and Processing Committee** - Interviews for architects will begin October 3rd. Parish meetings will be held October 29th at 9:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. Dave Olig will present what Nativity Anew I had accomplished. The plan for Nativity Anew II will be presented by the committee followed by an opportunity for suggestions and feedback. "How we will accomplish our goal" will also be addressed. Duane will chair the subcommittee that hires the fundraiser. Dave Olig and Tim Mathern will present an update on Nativity Anew II to the parish staff on October 16th. The goal for the total project is \$2.7 million for the building needs and \$300,000 for furnishings. Fifty percent of the total must be received before construction begins. April 2008 is the goal for starting construction.
- **Liturgy** – Bishop Aquila will celebrate the Mass of Installation for Fr. Kevin on September 30th at the 9:15 Mass. "Walk On" is the parish focus for the year. There will be three Parish Intergenerational Activities: November 28th–Advent, January 30th–Lent, and April 9th–Easter. A new piano has been purchased for the Music Room. The Madonna and Christ Child Sculpture should be in place by Christmas. A parishioner would like to fund the sculpture in memory of her husband. Christmas Eve liturgies will be at 4:00 P.M. and 10:30 P.M. Overflow seating at the 4:00 Mass will be in the Chapel along with the Fireside Room, Middle Room, and Cafeteria.
- **Social Justice** – Care and Share funds are no longer being donated to the Central Cities Ministry as there is never any money left when we send someone there. A subcommittee has been formed to develop a recycling program. This could possibly be a joint project with Nativity School which already recycles cans and

paper. Lucho Espejo is going to Peru and will try to check on how Fair Trade affects the people there. The committee has decided to help sponsor the Death Penalty Photo Exhibit at NDSU in October.

- **Health Advisory** – Amy Kuebelbeck, author of *Waiting with Gabriel*, will speak at Nativity on October 22nd. Her son, Gabriel, died shortly after birth due to hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Her presentation is sponsored in memory of Johanna Grace Nistler. The fee for Parish Nurse training is \$550; the committee may provide help if a nurse is interested in the program but unable to do so because of the cost. It was clarified that Parish Nurses provide no hands-on medical care. An Otto Bremer Foundation grant in the amount of \$6,564 was awarded to the Nativity Church for Parish Nurse Ministry. This is about 80% of the budgeted amount. The cost of training for the Befriender Ministry is similar to that of Parish Nursing training. Nativity has eighteen active Befriender members and they do some joint projects with the Parish Nurses.
- **FCSN Council** – A 5 year outline for Strategic Planning is being worked on. Capital Campaign pledges have passed the \$2 million mark. A \$1 million teacher endowment has been given to FCSN. (This is not part of the campaign.)
- **Parish Faith Life** – The Commission decided to meet every other month rather than monthly. They also recommend not continuing the Courtyard Party in August. They recommend having one, big, fun get-together and invite new and established members to get involved in parish life at the Fall Festival.
- **Leadership Vision Committee** – The committee agreed with the discontinuation of the Courtyard Party. They feel an evening of leadership vision/training should be held. The evening would be planned by both staff members and Pastoral Council. Suggested times for this evening are in the fall, following discernment, or during Lent. Some topics that could be addressed are consensus, the purpose of committees, an evening of inspiration, and our role in church as Christ's instrument.

Discussion returned to the purpose of the Courtyard Party. Most of the work is done by staff members. Some do not work during the summer and the end of August is very busy for them. The KCs provide the food and the free will offering covers their expenses. Faith formation uses the evening to register students. Over 200 people attended; many of them are older parishioners. Council decided to discuss a social event at the next meeting. Kevin Wolf will also bring this up at the next KC meeting.

Other New Business

Capital Campaign – 200 to 250 people are needed to conduct the campaign which will begin in January.

Chairperson Ken Jablonsky led the Council in Closing Prayer and adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Dahl

Acting Secretary