

NATIVITY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday – November 28, 2006

6:30 P.M. in Middle Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Kevin Wolf.

Present: Fr. Dale Kinzler, Fr. Bill Gerlach, Duane Koble, Kevin Wolf, Marilyn BJORALT, Terri Dahl, Jean Hannig, Betty Hund, Ken Jablonsky, Brenda Lang, Bev Nesler, Joel Simons, Bob Wold, and new Youth Ministry Youth Liaison Sarah Schlicht.

Absent: Kevin Capouch and Leon Senn.

Guests: Greg Schmalz and David Opsahl.

Chairman Kevin Wolf introduced the new Youth Liaison Sarah Schlicht and Guest Greg Schmalz who was visiting the Parish Council this evening.

Minutes from the October 24, 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:

- The lighting and electrical improvements as part of the Nativity Anew Campaign at a total bid of \$55,600, had received approval from the Diocese of Fargo. Installation should begin in January 2007.
- The Diocese of Fargo has also approved the sculpture image of Mary and the Child Jesus which was also part of the Nativity Anew Campaign. The total bid is \$15,000 with a completion date of December 2007.
- Angie Olson and Bill Bosch have volunteered to co-chair the annual Christmas Party which is already in the planning stages. Nativity and Olivet Lutheran Church will again host the party together.
- The 2007 Budget Draft has been presented to the staff for final input. The initial budget draft was presented to the Stewardship Council last week. Final budget will be completed January 2007.
- Joe Buchl from the Stewardship Council has accepted the role of Chairperson for Nativity's 2007 God's Gift of Appeal Campaign which begins February of 2007.
- Ron and Marlene Hoffart's \$1 million gift to Nativity will be directed towards implementation of the next phase of the master building plan of Nativity Anew II. The Diocese of Fargo has granted permission to conduct a 5-Year Campaign for facilities and improvements. A planning committee will be formed and will be co-chaired by Betty Hund and Paul Leier.
- The Diocese of Fargo has reviewed the Articles of Incorporation for each parish in the community and Nativity's name for legal purposes will be Nativity Church of Fargo.
- Effective January 1, 2007, lay officers will NOT be appointed by the Bishop as they have in the past for the Parish Board. Note the following changes:
 - ◆ Will be ex officio Lay Officers based upon their position with the Parish Finance Council (PFC)-Stewardship Council.
 - ◆ For Nativity Church of Fargo, the Corporate Lay Treasurer (PFC Chairperson)-Stewardship Council Chairperson is Al Peach.
 - ◆ The Corporate Lay Secretary will be the (PFC Secretary) Stewardship Council Secretary, Marilyn BJORALT.
 - ◆ These two appointments are for one year terms with re-appointment.
 - ◆ Marilyn BJORALT will be the liaison person to the Pastoral Council.

- The financials as of October 31st are on target with the budget. Chairman Kevin Wolf requested that Duane Koble provide a copy of the final year's financials to the Pastoral Council when completed.

Chairman Kevin Wolf then asked for the Associate Pastor's Comments as Fr. Dale Kinzler was absent due to attending a funeral and will arrive later.

Associate Pastor's Comments

Fr. Bill Gerlach's focus this month was on the sacramental preparation in process at Nativity.

- Chris Steffan has been conducting the baptismal preparation sessions since September. An assisting couple is still needed.
- Kathy Bourdon and Fr. Bill are conducting the reconciliation preparations with the second graders and their parents since November 5th.
- Students 4th Grade and older and their parents have been preparing for confirmation since October 22nd. The ceremony will be held on December 9th at the Cathedral.
- The RCIA process has been meeting weekly on Mondays. The Rite of Welcome and Acceptance was celebrated on November 25th with 1 catechumen and 4 candidates journeying towards the Easter sacraments in 2007.
- Fr. Dale and Fr. Bill continue to conduct marriage preparation. Fr. Bill is currently working with 14 couples. Three new sponsoring couples have stepped up to assist in this ministry.

Chairman Kevin Wolf moved onto the first agenda item under Old Business before the Council attended Chapel.

Nativity Anew II Update / Million Dollar Gift: Duane Koble reviewed the various steps needed prior to proceeding with the Nativity Anew II plans. The old Nativity Anew plan will be reviewed first to assist in identifying Nativity's future needs; an architect will be selected and a planning committee formed to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, etc. to the plan; a feasibility study will be conducted; priorities will be identified; and sub-committees will be formed.

The Council then attended the 7:00 p.m. evening chapel service. The following Reflection Questions were discussed after chapel:

1. What stumbling blocks might keep me from being ready to meet the Lord should he return today?
2. How will I choose to live more fully as a Christian this week?

The meeting reconvened with Fr. Dale Kinzler, Betty Hund, and David Opsahl joining the meeting.

New Meeting Rooms Plan Update: Duane Koble reported that construction is in full swing and the facility has been enclosed. The concrete footings, foundation, and floor have been completed and the steel structural components and roof trusses are in place. Window framing will be installed in a few weeks, as well as a low fence to border the parking lot from the building space. Inside work will be completed during the winter months. Target completion date is March or April of 2007, dependent on material availability. Please thank Peter Vandenburg for his supervision over this project.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Dale Kinzler reported on his responsibility serving on the Board of Governors of the Fargo Catholic Schools Network (FCSN) since 1995. The Board of Governors addresses policy issues, financial governance, spiritual concerns, as well as the academic and co-curricular life of the schools, building and grounds, etc.

Fr. Dale noted that it is a mission of each parish to provide Catholic Formation through the means of Catholic Schools when possible. Nativity is blessed to have an elementary school facility, which also

carries the burden and responsibility of maintenance and repairs of the facility. But the facility goes beyond meeting Catholic education, as it also serves as a meeting space for many other outside activities.

Chairman Kevin Wolf then returned to the agenda under Old Business.

Liturgical Space Update: Fr. Dale noted the lighting and electrical improvements as reported earlier, but expanded on the Mary and Christ Jesus sculpture. He stated that the sculpture represents the theme of Mary bearing Christ to the World, and that we as church, also bear Christ to the world. Various parts of the sculpture were explained in more detail to the Bishop, who gave his approval for the project.

Long Range Planning Update: Fr. Bill reported that as noted at a prior meeting, the staff had chosen one item under each goal to focus and build on. He is very pleased with the progression of the plan and expressed his gratefulness to Jean Hannig and Marilyn Bjoralt for their initial work on the Long Range Plan.

Communication Center Update: Fr. Bill took the Parish Council's input from last month's meeting back to the Parish Faith Life Commission. He noted that there are still many issues to address on its 3-dimensional use. They will continue to evaluate its uses and how to progress in the space provided.

New Business

1. Parish Visitation Program: David Opsahl described the program that he is initiating as his parish project as part of his formation process for the Deaconate. The focus of the program is to reach those Catholics in our boundaries who have lost touch with Nativity or are in need of a "hand" back to the church. Training will be provided to volunteers who will be paired up to call on people in our community. Discussion followed that provided David with ideas and concerns of how to identify Catholics in our area, resources to utilize, how to recruit volunteers, as well as possible residual benefits of the project. David also explained that Phase 1 will involve promotion and information of the project, followed by Phase 2 of 3 to 4 training sessions of volunteers to conduct the visits. Due to the fact that this will be a parish effort, Fr. Bill requested a list of the resources David will need from the staff.

Chairman Kevin Wolf then asked for a consensus from the Parish Council to move forward with the project as recommended by David Opsahl. Unanimous consensus was secured with the condition that Fr. Bill and Duane Koble meet with David Opsahl to determine how this project will fit in with the Long Range Plan.

2. Discernment Sunday Report: Fr. Bill reported that 14 people attended and was very pleased with the sharing and servant leadership that ensued that afternoon. He will be following up with each person to determine if they have made a final decision to participate on a council, commission, or committee. Guest Greg Schmalz was in attendance at the Parish Council meeting tonight and had participated in the Discernment Sunday afternoon process. Greg Schmalz shared his positive experience with the discernment process. Fr. Bill expressed his thanks to the Pastoral Council and staff for their support.
3. Youth Member Role on Pastoral Council: According to the By-Laws, Fr. Bill stated that a youth member was recommended on the Pastoral Council and that Sarah Schlicht had volunteered to fill this position. Sarah was asked what the youth of Nativity may want or need from the Pastoral Council? Sarah stated that she will be asking at each of their weekly meetings if there are any concerns or issues that anyone may have so that she can bring them forward to the Pastoral Council.
4. Special Elective Staff Member: The By-Laws also state that a Special Elective Staff Member may serve on the Pastoral Council. Chairman Kevin Wolf asked for a consensus from the Council to fill this position. Unanimous consensus was secured for the staff to select someone at their next meeting to serve in this capacity.

Committee Reports: Kevin Wolf requested if there were any committee reports or additions to reports that had been e-mailed prior to the meeting.

- **Liturgical Commission** – Terri Dahl had e-mailed the Liturgy Commission report. She emphasized the issue of greeting each other at the beginning of Mass and that the purpose is to introduce yourself, versus a simple “hello”. This change will be introduced in the Voice and at Mass.
- **Health Advisory** – Joel Simons deferred to Betty Hund who reminded the Council of the presentation this Thursday evening by Dr. Ken Christianson on “Understanding and Preventing Suicide”. Bev Nesler added that Sandy Bullinger was the speaker for T.E.A.R.S. (Together we educate about the realities of suicide) on November 8th for the youth grades 7-12. Sara Schlicht added that the presentation was well received.
- **Social Justice Ministry** – Bob Wold e-mailed the report to the Council and noted that Margaret Bitz has seriously focused on the issue of taking charge of your health, since this was a top priority from a survey of the parishioners. Margaret will be a guest at the Health Advisory Committee this month.
- **Youth Ministry** – Bev Nesler stated she had e-mailed her report. Nothing new to add.
- **FCSN** – Kevin Wolf handed out the November’s Executive Summary and a Facilities Committee Report from the school visit that was done at Nativity.
- **Stewardship Council** – Marilyn Bjoralt e-mailed her report and stated that the issues had been discussed at the meeting tonight and that there was nothing further to report.
- **Deanery Meeting** – Jean Hannig reported that two items had been discussed at the Diocesan meeting:
 1. The declining numbers in the religious education programs. No response from the Diocese on this issue.
 2. Marriage Preparation process. No response from the Diocese on this issue either. They will meet again on March 5, 2007. Jean reminded everyone that the Pastoral Council is welcome to bring items of concern to the Diocesan Deanery meetings at any time through her.

Other New Business

Duane Koble informed the Pastoral Council that the Stewardship Council will be holding a “Thank You for Your Stewardship” phon-a-thon on Sunday, December 10th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at O’Day Equipment. Duane will send a reminder e-mail to all council members to respond to him if you are able to assist in this expression of thanks.

Announcements / Comments

Chairman Kevin Wolf stated that he would be pleased to host a Christmas Social for the Pastoral Council and their spouse or guest in December. He will check his calendar and will e-mail the council members with a date and time.

Due to the number of events in January, the Pastoral Council cannot meet on the usual 4th Tuesday of the month in January. After discussion, the council agreed to move the meeting to the third Tuesday, on January 16, 2007.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m. and closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lang

Recording Secretary