

St. Patrick Parish
Pastoral Council
Minutes
All Group Meeting
May 27, 2009

Attendance:

Pastoral Council: Fr. Larry King, Bill Christian, Kris Bond, John Bonter, Jim Fandel, Geri Gross, Diane Huhn, Marvin Rajt, Christine Rockey.

Knights of Columbus, Gary Brown; Business, Plants and Ground and Finance, Mike Johnson; Father Flohe Foundation, Sue Fox; Fund Raising and Athletic Association, Dan Lawless; Stewardship, Craig Fedewa.; Youth, Guine Norman; Faith Formation, Tom Jandernoa; Music, Therese Jandernoa.

Excused Absence: Pastoral Council and Liturgy and Worship, Deacon Don Sobolewski; Pastoral Council and Welcoming and Social Committee, Sue Kreiner; PTO, Audra Pline.

Unexcused Absence: Education Commission, George Rutherford; School, Randy Hodge; Athletic Association, Tony Thelen; Scrip, Ralph Willemin; Summer Festival, Mike/Deb Coyne, Rick/Tammy Bengel, Kevin/Teresa Schneider, Keith/Shayla Schneider.

Bill Christian opened meeting by welcoming all attendees and thanking them for coming.

John Bonter led opening prayer.

Stewardship, Craig Fedewa: The Greeters will now be known as “Hospitality.”. The former Hospitality Committee will now be known as “Welcoming and Social Committee.” The Welcoming and Social Committee are continuing to give sign up cards for Parish Ministries to new parish members.

Four members of Stewardship Committee attended a workshop on Stewardship. Some of the key points were Stewardship is not about giving first, it is about being gifted first; and we are happiest when we learn to be content with our situation and count our blessings.

The Lenten Stewardship Time and Talent weekends were a success. They will continue this fall. The Commission is discussing whether to do a Stewardship Fair or individual weekends as before.

The Stewardship Commission will update the Stewardship book this fall also. It is 1 ½ year old.

Welcoming and Social Committee, Craig Fedewa: Sue Kreiner was unable to attend meeting so Craig Fedewa reported that Welcoming was very busy in January and February. There are 120 volunteers up from 100 two years ago. They are using about 60 % of their volunteers. The Welcoming and Social Committee are looking at ways to expand the opportunities for the Culinary Angels. One possibility is using them for help with funeral dinners.

Liturgy and Worship, Fr. Larry King: Fr. Larry reported for Deacon Don Sobolewski. The Liturgy and Worship group needs a leader. The Altar Servers are doing an excellent job. The Stewardship Weekend brought some new volunteers as Lectures and Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. The Ushers Groups need renewing.

The Tuesday evening Mass is a success. New faces at the evening Mass and some of the morning regulars attend the evening Mass.

The Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Mass will be moved to 7:30 a.m. once school it out until the fall.

Liturgy and Worship has a dream that parishioners as a whole will get more excited about their faith, and understand that church is more than 1 hour a week. By getting people involved in small parish groups / committees / organizations they can get to know each other better and become be more available to one another when hard times come.

Music, Therese Jandernoa: Therese added to the Liturgy and Worship report that they are working to develop a Liturgy of the Word for Children program.

The Music department held a Music workshop Patty Hughes the Liturgy and Worship representative from the diocese presented a Theological and Practical Workshop.

The Psalmist (song leader) will be moving to the Ambo. Some of them are nervous about the change and Therese is working with them.

Karen Stevens is leading the Bell choir. They were able to be at one Christmas Mass.

At last years Outdoor Mass every music group had at least one representative participate and Therese is hopeful that will be the same this year.

The School choir is a work in progress, new this year each grade from 3rd through 12th is taking turns being responsible for planning the school mass. If they are not an altar server or reader they are the choir. Most of the grades did a good job, and are rising to the challenge.

We currently have only 1 person who plays the organ and Therese is looking for additional key board players.

Plants and Grounds, Mike Johnson: The staff is working on odd and end jobs, painting, hand rails, crack repair etc. The school bathrooms need a lot of attention. The new parking lot on Church St. (formerly Joe Tichvon's property) will begin construction soon. The other parking lots will be sealed and re-stripped.

The heating / fresh air system is still being regulated.

Some temporary summer help has been added.

Finance, Mike Johnson: We are beginning to pay off the loan that was needed to complete the boiler project.

The parish finances have stabilized but it was a challenging year. A balanced budget has been approved for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The Finance Council is looking into long range planning.

The economy has been the biggest challenge.

CSA as of May 25, has about \$60,000 pledged. A mailing will go out the end of May to those who have not responded to the CSA drive.

Faith Formation, Tom Jandernoa: This year the Vacation Bible School will be using a new program that is completely based on the Catholic Faith. This year's program is "Growing with the Saints". It uses Bible Scripture to teach about virtues, Sacraments and the saints.

The biggest challenge for Faith Formation is developing opportunities for Adult Formation. Tom would like to develop Adult opportunities that will lead adult participants to become Catechists.

The Diocese has developed new criteria for Catechist Certification. The basic level requires 8 hours of training the 1st year, with a continuing 16 hours for Level II and an additional 16 hours for Level III. Sr. Barbara Klein of Grand Rapids Diocese is working on new requirements for Adult Catechist. All Catholic School teachers must also be certified not just those who teach religion classes. The certification encourages people to be excited about their faith and to pass that excitement along to their students. The certification must be renewed every 3 years. The cost of training Catechist has not yet been determined. There are different ways to train, using guest speakers, workshops, online opportunities and in house programs conducted by Tom Jandernoa. Variety is needed.

Youth, Guine Norman: The Spring 2009 Mission trip to Kentucky was a success. The students worked very hard and the director of the Blind Camp where they worked was very impressed with our students. They cut over 50 cords of wood. They split logs and even though it was hard physical work they had a good time. A group of men from a Brethren Church also commented on how well behaved and how strong the faith of our students was. Guine also complimented the adult chaperones. Dinner Theater was canceled because of a scheduling problem with St. Patrick School play. The Askew Music group will begin practicing again soon. There are 20 to 35 students participating each week. Guine mentioned possibility of Culinary Angels helping to provide snacks for Youth meetings. She will be starting "The Edge" a program for Middle School aged students. There have been a couple of movie nights and Guine hopes to have some over the summer when regular Youth meeting are not held. There are a number of students and staff from St. Patrick's attending DYMO camp this year. There are still some openings for Steubenville. It has been a challenge for Guine to get to know the families of the students. The theme for the fall youth program will be "Works of Mercy" Young adults (college age) will be participating in a program with others in the diocese at Grand Rapids.

Parish Enhancement Committee (PEC), Bill Christian: The PEC members who are representative of Finance, Pastoral Council and School are working to develop a Parish Survey. What works, what does not and program needs. From the results of the survey with should be completed this fall Pastoral Council will develop long range vision and goals for the parish.

Father Flohe Foundation, Sue Fox: The 2009-2010 school year, FFF will be donating \$345. for each student attending St. Patrick School. This is a one time donation to offset the need for any tuition increases this school year. It is hoped to increase enrollment. FFF will re-evaluate the amount of their donation each year. The change in this year's donation was discussed with members of the past and current board and other donors.

Sue Van Lente will be receiving the Bell Award at Graduation May 31, 2009

Since 1985 \$682,000 has been donated to St. Patrick School. \$1.4 million has been donated to FFF since 1985.

The FFF is working to reduce the risk of their portfolio.

September 12, 2009 FFF will be hosting the 50th reunion for St. Patrick School class of 1959. Sue Fox will chair this event. As a result of these reunions FFF received a \$90,000 donation from a reunion attendee.

Athletic Association, Dan Lawless: The AA purchased a new bus. The Gym has been repainted along with the locker room and weight room. The Fr. Flohe field has been cleaned up and the dugouts repaired. Tri County Electric donated a scoreboard. A long jump and high jump practice area have been installed. Also a softball field has been completed.

The AA plans to start a Middle School track program. They will be adding 3-4 and 5-6 grade football. The Quiz Bowl team is also sponsored by the AA.

Fund Raising, Dan Lawless: The Worker Benefit positions are being phased out as they become vacated. There are no longer any lunch aids positions under the Worker Benefit program. It is cheaper to pay minimum wage then to continue the non worker subsidy. The auction made \$42,000 profit to be split between the school and the Athletic Association.

Knights of Columbus, Gary Brown: The Portland Council will be receiving the Michigan Achievement Award.

Next fall the Grand Knight will be Rich Schneider.

The Knights will be doing a membership drive in June.

They will continue to review their programs looking at what works and what programs are no longer an asset. Bingo attendance is down. Their breakfast and Euchre parties continue to be successful.

There are 550 members active and honorary. Honorary members are members over 70 years old and have been members for 50 years.

Pastor Comments, Fr. Larry King: Father thanked everyone for coming. He explained the process the Pastoral Council has set for the all group meetings. The Pastoral Council discussed the written reports that were submitted by the parish groups. At this meeting tonight the oral reports allow Pastoral Council to follow up with any additional questions and allow the other groups in attendance to learn what is happening in the Parish. In the Fall the groups will be asked to provide their plans for the year.

The Fall 2009 meeting will be Tuesday October 27, 2009, The reports are due to Pastoral Council Tuesday, October 6, 2009. The Pastoral Council will review the reports on Tuesday, October 20, 2009.

The Spring 2010 meeting will be Tuesday, May 18, 2010. The reports are due to Pastoral Council on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, and the Council will review the reports on Tuesday, April 20, 2010.

The meeting closed with prayer.