

**St. Margaret Mary Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes
November 5, 2002**

Present: Rick Burton Matthew Johnson Mark Oliphant
 Harry Dubnick Linda Griffin Fr. Bill O’Shea
 Molly Fara Jim Kacena Fr. Danny Soriano
 Tom Gavin Joe Kash

Also Attending: Mike Prus Mike Bruni Mike Doody Dick Backer

Not Present: Dan Ptak Tom Walz Sr. Madelyn Gould

Opening Prayer: Harry Dubnick

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the October 1st meeting were approved.

Parishioner Input

The Parish Council discussed an email it received expressing concerns that the group “Church Women United”, which has some views not entirely consistent with Catholic teaching, was allowed to use our facility for a worship service.

After a brief discussion the Council determined that this was not inconsistent with other ecumenical groups’ (including Muslims and Jews) use of our facilities which do not hold every view that we as Catholics do, but where we agree to disagree. No action was taken other than to authorize the president to respond to the writer.

Discussion Items

A. Naperville Pastoral Council Presidents/Chairs

Tom Gavin reported that this new, very enthusiastic group met on October 15th for 4 ½ hours. They discussed leadership structure, issues facing the parishes, and how goals are set. There were some surprises of how differently things are run at the parishes. The group will continue to meet, visiting the different parishes as long as there is momentum, and these meetings will at times include staff members. The next meeting is December 5th when they will discuss what works well at their parishes.

B. Appreciation Dinner Preparations

Molly Fara proposed that beginning this year the Pastoral Council Vice President will be responsible to coordinate arrangements for the annual Appreciation Dinners. The proposal was approved by all members. This year’s dinners will be held January 18 & 25, with lights and disco ball set up on December 28th with help from members of the Men’s Club. Molly will form a committee, and asks that *at least* one member from each Commission is part of this committee. In addition, all Council members are invited to help out for the actual set-up and clean-up for the dinners. Council members are responsible to respond to Molly with a list of volunteers.

C. Space Needs Steering Committee Report

Mike Doody reported on the progress of the Space Needs Steering Committee. Although much more work is needed this month before plans can be presented to Council and the parish at large, limited information is available. They estimate that the additional space for the administration and education offices, storage and large group space (which will probably extend off the parish center) will total 16,000-17,000 square feet. Square footage of the current building is 37,500. The committee will give a formal presentation to Council at the December meeting. Mike suggests that members of CRD meet with Council next month to give a presentation of what the capital campaign will entail. Mike Bruni feels that waiting another month will allow the clarity needed for the campaign, especially since the regional school is now a menu item. CRD and the Steering Committee will continue to work during the month, anticipating a capital campaign of “when”, not “if”. CRD has been working the past 45 days in good faith without a new contract, and a new contract will be presented when the next steps are to be taken.

D. Regional School Update

Jim McSherry reported on the progress of the proposed regional school. Many meetings have been held during the month, with members of the Regional School Committee, pastors from the area parishes and the bishop. Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Mercy representatives appear to be much more enthusiastic than expected, even to the point that they are interested in taking the position of a supporting parish, with the ability to commit their parishioners to the joint capital campaign. St. Raphael's pastor is willing to have further discussions. SS. Peter and Paul and St. Joan of Arc will need further information to decide how this will impact the enrollment of their schools. Instead of three parishes committed as supporting members, it might involve up to five. The Regional School Committee needs to begin the process of interviewing firms for capital campaigns. The timing of this campaign is not necessarily going to be the same as SMM's space needs, which is a concern.

The regional school is committed to classes beginning with Pre-K 3 & 4 year olds, and 3 classes per grade. How will the classes be opened in a staggered format depends on pre-enrollment. This will determine what additions, renovations, etc. will be needed. District 203 has a comprehensive report prepared of the condition of the building, and sharing this information with the Regional School Committee and diocese, at a cost, is being negotiated. Additional classroom space can possibly be built on the pad next to the school building. Some parishes are concerned with the funds that are not covered by the capital campaign, and who will carry this debt or if it is built into the costs of education by those who attend. Fr. Bill will clarify this with Bishop Imesch. The bishop did state that the cost of the land and building will be treated as a loan – one that will be paid back over time, not necessarily on the day that the school is opened. Another factor that is being discussed by the Regional School Committee is how to prioritize enrollment from the various parishes, dependent on the amount of contributions by the parish. Jim will return at the December meeting to give another update.

Commission Reports

Administration Commission

Jim Lynch from the Archdiocese voiced concern about the liability issues connected with the use of a defibrillator in the church. Discussion on this item will continue. A computer has been purchased to run the new HVAC system purchased from Johnson Controls. The installation of this system has begun and is expected to be completed by Christmas. The Stewardship Committee is pleased with the progress of this year's stewardship campaign.

Christian Education

Several retreats have either taken place this fall or are in the planning process. Every time a retreat is held the lack of space is a major issue which will hopefully be resolved in the near future.

Christian Service

Projects such as the Giving Tree and Thanksgiving baskets are going well. The Commission's Enrichment Evening was well attended and received favorable comments.

Worship

No additional report.

Youth Representative

No report.

Pastor's Comments

A request has been made by the Regional School Committee for an additional contribution from each parish. Their funds are running low and monies may be needed for the report from the school district. Approval was given.

Final Whip Around

Good meeting – the brevity of the meeting is appreciated. Next month will be very important with major decisions needed, dealing with the space needs and regional school issues and their capital campaign.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned 9:05

Respectfully submitted by Katrina Meder