

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
May 6, 2008

Members Present: Tom Cordaro, Molly Fara, Linda Griffin, Don Helgeson, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Terry Kerr, Jim Krema, Pat McAuliffe, Rick Peterson, Mike Prus, Barb Ryan, Gary Skarr, Paul Weinewuth

Members Absent: None

Guest Presenters: Mary Anne Cronauer, Kevin Madden

Guest (Discernment) Observers: Agnes Anderson, Brian Churilla, Kevin Lynch, Mark Mueller

Jim Krema, Pastoral Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He then introduced tonight's guest presenters (Mary Ann Cronauer and Kevin Madden), along with guest discernment process observers (Agnes Anderson, Brian Churilla, Kevin Lynch, and Mark Mueller). Agnes, Brian, and Kevin are considering becoming Pastoral Council Member At-Large Candidates, with a fourth interested At-Large Member Candidate, Barbara Wester, being unable to observe tonight's meeting. In addition, Mark Mueller observed tonight's meeting as a possible future Commission Member.

Pat McAuliffe then offered a prayer and shared Scripture, followed by the Council's reflecting on these.

Guest Presentation – Evangelization:

Mary Ann Cronauer (SMMP Parishioner): Mary Ann Cronauer reported on some of the recent Catholic evangelization efforts being attempted as follows: at her daughter's parish in Pittsburgh (through Easter "welcome" flyers and gift bags); at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Naperville (through a special 6-week series: "Catholics Returning Home," advertised thru bulletin articles, pew notes, and ads through local newspapers); and door-to-door evangelization in Aurora, IL. She also provided additional articles on Catholic evangelization efforts, also noting three groups of Catholics: "the engaged," "the non-engaged," and "the nonexistent." It is especially with the "non-engaged" members ("the lost generation") on which a parish should focus most of its evangelization efforts. Mary Ann likened her presentation tonight to "throwing out seeds about evangelization," also challenging the Council to continue making face-to-face invitations to the "non-engaged" for greater parish participation.

Approval of April Minutes and Announcements:

The Pastoral Council approved the minutes from 4/1/08, with Gary Skarr moving, Paul Weinewuth seconding, and the Council unanimously approving these. These will now be posted to the Pastoral Council web page, with Council Secretary Terry Kerr summarizing these for the parish bulletin.

Parish Town Hall Meeting and P.A.D.S. Discernment (4/29/08):

The Parish Town Hall Meeting was very well organized and also had a large attendance. Tom Cordaro felt that most attendees were there primarily to receive additional information relating to SMMP's P.A.D.S. (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) host site discernment, without much negativity expressed at this meeting. The Council will defer its vote until the June meeting about SMMP's becoming a P.A.D.S. host site. Meanwhile, all e-mails about the P.A.D.S. site discernment will continue to be directed to Tom Cordaro.

Updates:

Sr. Madelyn's 25th Anniversary Celebration (4/13/08) and Sr. Elizabeth's Retirement Celebration (5/4/08): Jim noted that the liturgies and receptions for these two events were very well run and well attended, with each being uniquely planned for Sr. Madelyn and Sr. Elizabeth. He especially thanked Barb Ryan and Terry Kerr for helping organize Sr. Madelyn's celebration, along with thanking Linda Griffin for her efforts toward Sr. Elizabeth's celebration. Linda added that Sr. Elizabeth also seemed very pleased that a "climbing tree" would be planted in her honor as a replacement for her favorite tree that had previously been cut down.

Pastoral Council's Constitution: Due to the Council's Constitution being in need of updates which should be made every three years, Jim is planning to work on these updates shortly with Mike Prus. Jim will then send out suggested changes to the Council by e-mail, with further discussion by e-mail also encouraged during this month. He hoped that these minor changes to the Constitution could then be approved at the June meeting.

Jim questioned whether Pastoral Council At-Large Members should concurrently serve on Parish Commissions, as long as they are not also chairing a Commission during their Council term. However, there was some discussion about whether or not an At-Large Member position would be considered "tainted" if that representative would concurrently serve on a Commission, too. It was also suggested that, while other parishioners can also serve on more than one Commission at the same time, no one person should assume dual chairpersonship roles. As the Pastoral Council's Constitution does not delineate any of these issues, new policies need to be developed for these. While there is currently very little in the Constitution about the Commissions' governance, Jim expressed the need for new Council's by-laws about the Commissions' governance and membership. Fr. Paul also highlighted the importance of avoiding having "cliques" run a parish.

Election of Pastoral Council Officers for 2008-09: The election of new Pastoral Council Officers for 2008-09 will be held at the June meeting.

At-Large Member (Pastoral Council) Discernment: As headed by

Barb Ryan and Terry Kerr, the discernment process is under way for the selection of new Pastoral At-Large Members. Terry reported that of the 26 nominees submitted, four attended last night's informational meeting, with a few others still possibly being included in the discernment process. Three of these four nominees were guest observers at tonight's Council meeting. These four nominees will then be sending their biographical summaries to Mary Straub for inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Discernment will be held after Memorial Day.

Budget Discussion:

While a strong parish-wide effort will be made shortly to significantly increase revenue through contributions, the Finance Committee has tentatively developed a budget for 2008-09 that includes the targeted \$75,000 in cuts. These cuts are especially needed if parish revenue does not increase soon. Kevin Madden, Finance Committee Chairperson, delineated what the \$75,000 in both "easy" and "hard" cuts would entail. They include: \$32,000 in "hard" cuts, as identified by the Commissions and Parish Administration; an \$18,000 decrease for Charitable Contributions Committee; and a \$25,000 decrease for the Scholarship Committee.

There was also continued discussion about achieving a greater sense of solidarity by "sharing the pain" of budget cuts among all of the Commissions, including Christian Worship. While there has been much concern about whether or not cuts affecting the worship services could disenfranchise the parish, Tom Cordaro indicated that at least some form of "easy" cuts from this Commission would especially help with overall staff morale. Meanwhile, John Schlaman, Music Director, has already identified areas where some possible cuts could be made. Each Council member then indicated their view on whether or not CWC should also make some cuts, with there being a mostly even amount of those in favor and those in disfavor of this. Don Helgeson, CWC Representative, was then asked to communicate to the Worship Commission about the Council's request to make some small budgetary cut, too, with Don's then reporting to Kevin Madden within the next few weeks.

While the parish growth over the past 20 years has now reached a plateau, it was also recommended that the Council reexamine all of the programs that the parish offers, looking at these more closely during the summer months. As the parish has accumulated many of its programs over the years, it now needs to discern which of these are still actually needed. However, it needs to likewise meet the challenge of looking beyond serving its own people and own needs.

Kevin Madden also shared plans to more frequently include summary-type information about parish finances in the weekly bulletins, rather than just a quarterly financial statement.

Following this, the Pastoral Council took a break at 8:35 p.m., with the meeting resuming at 8:45 p.m.

Commitment Sunday / Time and Talent Sunday (5/17 and 5/18):

Jim will electronically send to the Council members both versions of the letter in advance that will be mailed out to the parishioners around Commitment Sunday (5/17-18). There will be one version sent to parish contributors and another to parish non-contributors. Both letter versions will also be accompanied by a second sheet listing many quality programs currently provided by the parish, along with inclusion of a commitment card with requested return. Parishioners will be asked to consider increasing or start making contributions. They will also be encouraged to consider signing up to contribute through the ParishPay electronic system.

At all of the weekend Masses on 5/17 and 5/18, Paul Weinewuth, Bill Hassett, and Sr. Madelyn will make presentations during the homily time about the parish's many quality programs that need continued financial resources in order to continue. While they plan to present an upbeat message about these quality programs, they also need to convey the existence of a serious financial problem. Weekend priests will also need to be informed about these special presentations in advance.

Since the 5/17 and 5/18 Weekend also includes Time and Talent Sunday, as well as Hospitality Sunday, tables will be set up for a Ministry Fair then. There will also be a table included for the Finance Committee, with ParishPay sign-up information at this, along with a table for the Pastoral Council. While it is still uncertain about whether the new building space will be approved for occupancy by this date, the Time and Talent Sunday displays might either be set up in the old Parish Center or in the new building area despite a previous bulletin announcement about this being held in the new area. Business Manager Mike Prus noted that there would be a smaller available space for the Ministry Fair if held in the new area (allowance for 8-10 tables) vs. in the old Parish Center (allowance for 12-14 tables). Mike will be working on Ministry Fair table assignments and set-up arrangements for both of these areas.

Building Expansion Update, Blessing, Open House, and Naming Update:

While a walk-through of the building expansion area was made earlier today in order to generate a final punch-list, Mike Prus reported that there is still a lingering delay in obtaining electrical approval by the City of Naperville. He shared his frustration about this, as the City needs to clarify what is still needed before the final building inspection. Otherwise, nearly all of the construction work is now completed. While the naming of this new area has not yet been officially made, the administrative staff is currently referring to this new area as "The Upper Room."

Two plans were offered for the Open House and blessing of the new building expansion area. These included:

A. Holding the blessing of the new building expansion area after the

5:00 p.m. Mass on 5/17 (Saturday), then pairing the Open House of the new area with Commitment / Time and Talent / Hospitality Sunday (after all of the weekend Masses of 5/17 and 5/18).

- B. Holding the Open House during the Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast (6/1), while also keeping the yellow construction tape up on weekends prior until this “grand opening.”

Commission Reports:

Administration: Although Administration Commission Representative Molly Fara stated that no minutes were sent out, Mike Prus provided updates on the Commission’s recent meeting. Mike noted that Eric Weimer and the Parish Website Committee felt that the website was working well, although more people are needed on this committee. The choir riser railings were recently installed by John Schlaman and that these were helping a lot. Meanwhile, Mike stated that there will be a number of upcoming parking lot issues for the summer, including seal coating and striping. In addition, a signed contract is now in place for Phase 2 building renovation work, scheduled to start in late June after Vacation Bible School and lasting for 4-5 weeks. The contractor has also agreed to work around the Flea Market, scheduled for 7/19.

Christian Education (CEC): Linda Griffin, CEC Representative, expressed her thanks for Mary Oliphant’s coordinating the liturgy for Sr. Elizabeth’s retirement celebration on 5/4. Phase 2 of the selection process for the new Director of Religious Education is now under way, with the committee starting to conduct second interviews with several candidates. Meanwhile, First Communions were held this month, with this being the first year that these were held as part of the regularly scheduled Sunday Masses – the liturgies were well received by both the parishioners and First Communicants’ families. Confirmation was held on 5/1, with Fr. Paul administering this Sacrament due to Bishop Imesch’s illness. In addition, Teen Masses are planned for 4:00 p.m. on selected Sunday’s with teens’ big group events. Linda reported that all of the 2007-08 Religious Education classes have now ended and that this year’s Adult Education offerings were well attended. Lastly, Liturgy of the Word (for K-Grade 3) is now using a lectionary, and lesson plans have also been created for each week.

Christian Service (CSC): Pat McAuliffe, CSC Chairperson, posed the question of who would be the new Council Liaison, along with CSC leader? She also reported that the Charitable Contributions Committee has now finished making its final contribution for 2007-08.

Christian Worship (CWC): Don Helgeson, CWC Representative, reported that the CWC would be prepared to make up to 20% cuts in the music budget if necessary, according to John Schlaman. Meanwhile, the CWC has already cut its budget for 2008-09 by \$2,700, through a reduction in funeral expenses. The CWC said that they would also abide

by the Finance Committee and Father Paul's decision on what the final numbers should be, up to a total of 20% in cuts if needed.

Other: Mike Prus is the administrator for Pastoral Council e-mails, in an attempt to ensure that there is no information abuse within this system, strictly for Council business.

Pastor's Comments: Fr. Paul shared the sad news that Fr. Michael O'Keefe, weekend assistant, was recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Final "Whip" Around: Comments included: "great meeting," "good meeting," "looking forward to next month's meeting," "hopeful about budget discussions," "some important issues being considered," "need to keep construction tape up [in the new expansion area] until the Open House," "important message, with reflection for future leaders," and "appreciation for being able to share thoughts without others taking this personally." Visitors expressed their thanks for being invited to attend and observe tonight's meeting.

Closing: Pat McAuliffe offered a closing prayer, with the meeting then ending at 9:25 p.m. Gary Skarr was thanked for providing tonight's refreshments.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

Parishioners are invited to provide input to the Pastoral Council either by attending the monthly meeting [usually] held on the first Tuesday of the month in Room 8 at 7:00 p.m. or by contacting any member of the Council to provide informal comments in advance to him/her. (Please contact Jim Krema in advance if you would like to address the Council. Pastoral Council members can also be contacted by e-mail at: pastoralcouncil@smmp.com).

June Opening and Closing Prayer/Guided Reflection on Scripture: Molly Fara
June Meeting Refreshments: Rick Peterson

Open Action Items:

Person Assigned	Date of Origin	Item Description	Due Date
Terry Kerr, Barb Ryan	2/5/08	Oversee new at-large Council member discernment process	6/3/08
Jim Krema, Paul Weinewuth	2/5/08	Work with Finance Committee to develop budget shortfall strategy and presentation	5/18/08
Jim Krema	5/6/08	Send PPC Constitution to all members for comment	6/3/08
Rick Peterson	5/6/08	Blessing of Building Expansion and Open House	6/1/08
Jim Krema	4/1/08	Work with Sr. Madelyn in planning the Staff/Council retreat in August	6/3/08

Respectfully submitted,
Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary