

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
June 3, 2008

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

Newly Discerned At-Large Council Members Present: Brian Churilla, Kevin Lynch

Members Absent: None

Guests Presenters: Terry Wagner (Finance Committee)

Jim Krema, Pastoral Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Molly Fara then offered an opening prayer.

Jim introduced Brian Churilla and Kevin Lynch as the two newly discerned At-Large Members joining Pastoral Council for 2008-09. Brian has been a SMMP member for 17 years and Kevin for 11 years. Jim clarified that they would be invited to voice their opinions at tonight's meeting but could not vote until the September 2008 meeting. All of tonight's meeting attendees then introduced themselves to these two new members.

Announcements:

Parish New Wing Open House (5/31 and 6/1) and Dedication (6/1):

Jim Krema reported that many people attended the open house for the parish's new wing last weekend, with his estimating that 98% of the attendees gave positive feedback about this new area. It is anticipated that the new upper area will primarily be used for a hospitality center during the weekends. There will be a library/sitting area available throughout the week. Examples of other uses include large meetings and teen liturgies. While the Council discussed the possibility of having donor naming rights for this new space, Fr. Paul especially felt that this would not be appropriate. While the staff has already been referring to this new area as "The Upper Room," Jim requested that other naming ideas be submitted to Mike Prus during the summer.

Newcomer's Reception (6/5/08): Rick Peterson announced that there is a Newcomer's Reception scheduled for this coming Thursday night, with its being the final one to be held until the fall. Rick reported that the Newcomers Committee has consistently received 1-2 new families' names per Hospitality Sunday, with his being pleased that the committee has continued to meet when Rick was recently not available. He also invited Parish Council members to attend this upcoming reception.

Pastoral Council/Staff Retreat (8/21 and 8/22): There will be a workshop retreat ("American Catholic Laity: From Sheep to Shepherd") for SMMP Pastoral Council and Staff, scheduled for the evening of 8/21 and during

the day on 8/22. Sr. Madelyn has already prepared the itinerary for this, with Fr. Jonathan Foster, OFM, being the facilitator. While Jim and Gail Krema will be providing the dinner on 8/21, and Sr. Madelyn will be providing the lunch on 8/22. Jim requested that a Council member sign up to furnish the breakfast on 8/22.

Decision About SMMP's Hosting P.A.D.S. (Public Action to Deliver Shelter):

Tom Cordaro, Justice/Outreach Minister, reviewed the information-gathering and communication processes that have been used during the parish's discernment about becoming a P.A.D.S. host site for 2008-09. These included: publishing a series of bulletin articles; meeting with all of the parish commissions; holding a parish town hall meeting; and compiling and electronically distributing to the Council all e-mail comments received about this. Tom felt that all of these above steps were very comprehensive and thorough. The overall feedback received about hosting P.A.D.S. was positive, with there only being a few objections raised.

The P.A.D.S. space and storage issues have now been addressed. Tom noted that Dick Backer helped solve these issues by obtaining ideas through his visits to some other P.A.D.S. sites. Tom stated that SMMP would also need a P.A.D.S. site coordinator or coordinating committee, to be in place before this once-weekly program could move forward. He also noted that, while SMMP has already had a P.A.D.S. Committee for the past 18 years, Pat Bush would not be available to continue as its coordinator. If approved by the Pastoral Council, SMMP would enter into a signed contractual one-year agreement to be a once-weekly P.A.D.S. host site on Thursday nights from October 2008 through April 2009.

Motion 1: Gary Skarr moved that the Pastoral Council approve St. Margaret Mary Parish's becoming a once-weekly P.A.D.S. host site from October 2008 through April 2009, contingent on the formation of a P.A.D.S. Site Coordinating Committee. Pat McAuliffe seconded this, with the Council unanimously approving this.

Jim Krema thanked Tom Cordaro and Don Helgeson for their extensive work in this discernment process about P.A.D.S.

Finalization of 2008-09 Budget:

Terry Wagner answered questions about the Parish Interim Financial Report (7/07-3/08), along with the most recently proposed budget for FY 2009 (6/1/08). He clarified that most of the shortfall in Sunday collections occurred in 10/07, concurrent with the church's being closed for sprinkler installation (when Masses were held in the downstairs Parish Center during this interim). Terry also noted that Sunday collections have been basically on budget since then, with Christmas and Easter collections being well over budget. Nevertheless, Sunday collections are 4.0% under budget for FY 2008 and 2.9% under actual FY 2007. The new proposed

budget for FY 2009 (dated 6/1/08) reflects \$75,000 in cuts, now also including \$2,700 in cuts by the Christian Worship Commission (CWC) These are for funeral costs, with families of the bereaved now being asked to compensate the organist and vocalist at the funeral Mass (rather than SMMP's paying for these expenses). It was noted that the new budget eliminates the annual Volunteer Appreciation Night. The budget assumes an increase in Sunday collections of about 2.7% versus FY08 actual. Terry noted that this wasn't as much as it sounded, given the church's temporary closing for construction, affecting the FY08 amount. Terry also noted that there is one less Sunday in FY09 versus FY08. The budget now shows an operating surplus of just over the \$100K transfer needed to be made to All Saints Academy. Council members also noted that a number of parishioners had expressed their lack of awareness about there being an existing shortfall.

Since only 190 of the 2,800 contribution commitment cards that were mailed out to SMMP registered families around 5/18 have been returned to date, much continued follow-up is needed to encourage their turn-in. The Council then agreed to have reminder announcements made at all of the weekend Masses during the next few weeks about the need to return these cards. There will be a table in the church narthex for card turn-in, along with additional blank cards available for this. It was agreed that Mike Prus and his team would summarize the data received such that details would not be available to members of the Parish Council or Finance Committee. Clarification is needed about what additional information is needed in order to closely monitor contributions received while still carefully retaining contributors' privacy. Terry noted that the Finance Committee has already begun discussing this issue and will begin presenting this type of information soon.

It was also recommended that there should be future bulletin articles and/or announcements at Mass communicating about where and how various cuts will need to be made if Sunday collections do not increase. Another recommendation is to frequently post in the weekly bulletin such information as: Amount Budgeted to Date; Amount Collected to Date; and Overage to Date. An actual increase in Sunday collections is very much needed (and not just contribution pledges for this).

The Development Committee will continue its work during the next few months, following its efforts that focused on Commitment Sunday (5/17 and 5/18). Jim Krema will report to the Pastoral Council by e-mail during the summer months about this committee's additional activity. In September, the Council will discuss how this committee should evolve and what its place in the organization would be.

Motion 2: Pat McAuliffe moved that the Parish Council accept the proposed 2008-09 budget for FY 2009 (6/1/08 version), with Don Helgeson seconding this. The Council's vote included 11 in favor and 1 in abstention.

Molly Fara also recommended that the Pastoral Council very carefully examine each of SMMP's existing programs in the summer in order to better determine which ones are thriving vs. fading.

Following this, the Council then took a break at 8:00 p.m., with the meeting resuming at 8:14 p.m.

Approval of May Minutes:

Motion 3: The Pastoral Council approved the minutes from 5/5/08, with Gary Skarr moving, Molly Fara and Paul Weinewuth seconding, and the Council unanimously approving these.

Commission Reports:

Administration: Molly Fara reported that the Administration Commission had last met on 5/21/08, with minutes already having been electronically sent to the Pastoral Council. She reported that the commission had recently received proposals from vendors for parking lot crack filling, seal coating, and striping, with the Commission Members then walking the parking lot in order to make further inspection. While the Administration Committee will seek a price for crack filling this summer, it might postpone seal coating and striping for another year.

Christian Education (CEC): Linda Griffin, CEC Representative, noted that the Commission had last met on 5/8/08. She stated that the new Director of Religious Education, Sue Davey, has now been hired – this new director has recently received a Master's degree in Religious Studies from Loyola University. Her salary is reflected in the budget for FY 2009. Linda also announced that Bob Hansen will be the new CEC Chairperson and that Cathy Kaduk will be Linda's replacement as CEC Representative to the Pastoral Council. Jim thanked Linda for her many years of service as CEC Representative.

Linda also reported that a group of 20 older teens (older high school and college students) will be leaving on a mission trip to Clintwood, WV, this weekend. The jr. high ministry has several mission trips planned for working at Archbishop Romero School, Aurora (8/4-8/7).

Christian Service (CSC): Pat McAuliffe, CSC Chairperson, stated that Daybreak Transitional Housing recently interviewed two families, accepting one of them to reside in one of the Daybreak apartments. This recently widowed mother and her three sons are currently living in a homeless shelter, with Daybreak conducting a collection on 6/14 of used and new donated household furnishings for this family. The wish list for this collection was included as an insert in this past Sunday's bulletin.

Pat noted that Paul Christin, head of Pastoral Care, is currently recuperating from a recent hospitalization.

The annual parish Flea Market will be held on 7/18 and 7/19, to raise funds for families in need of financial assistance for tuition to attend Archbishop Romero School, Aurora.

Pat also announced that Nancy Rutkowski will be replacing Pat as CSC Representative on Pastoral Council. Nancy's nomination as head of CSC will be voted on at the commission meeting on 6/6. Nancy is a recent graduate of the diocesan "New Wine" church leadership program and is familiar with CSC workings. Jim thanked Pat for her service on Pastoral Council.

Christian Worship (CWC): Don Helgeson, CWC Representative, reported that the budget cuts were discussed at the CWC meeting on 5/13/08 – several representatives were also absent at this recent commission meeting.

Review of Pastoral Council Constitution:

During this past month, Jim Krema had requested that Council Members submit their feedback to him about possible revisions in the current Pastoral Council Constitution, which was last revised in March 2005. Among areas that were noted to be in current need of revision include:

- Article II – Responsibilities
 - Reword Duties of the Pastoral Council ("to prepare, annually, a statement of the spiritual, educational, social, and financial status/needs/goals of the parish")
- Article IV – Composition of the Council
 - Section 3 – Membership
 - Expand "Associate Pastor" to allow for a staff representative
 - Remove "At-Large Young Adult (16 through 20 years of age) Member to be elected for a term of one year" with "Young Adult or Teen representative to be invited to Council meetings for special update presentation(s)"
 - Term Limits
 - Add Limitations for Commission Liaisons to 3 years and for Commission Heads to 3 years
 - Limit At-Large Members to a single 3-year term

The Council will be voting on changes/revisions to the Constitution in September.

Election of Pastoral Council Officers for 2008-09:

Nominations for each office were made and seconded, with nominees then either accepting or declining their nomination before voting occurred.

The elected Pastoral Council Officers for 2008-09 include:

President – Jim Krema (re-elected for a second and final one-year term)

Vice-President – Rick Peterson (re-elected for a second and final one-year term)

Secretary – Kevin Lynch (elected for an initial one-year term)

Pastor's Comments:

Fr. Paul requested that adult advisors are needed to help with coordinating a new Youth Board, relating to both jr. high and high school groups. He also indicated that youth groups need to have greater spiritual enhancement and dynamism.

Meanwhile, Fr. Paul briefly reported on an excellent retreat on healing forgiveness that he had attended last weekend at Benet Lake, WI, through the Association of Christian Therapists.

He also thanked the Council for a good year, which was also his first year at SMMP.

Final "Whip" Around:

Comments included:

- "Appreciated the opportunity to serve during this past year."
- "Measurement results are needed, along with follow-through"
- "Good meeting – busy meeting"
- "Need to look at programs during the summer"
- "Will miss Paul, Gary, Pat, and Linda – good luck and many thanks to them!"
- "Welcome to the newly discerned members"
- "Great meeting – happy summer ahead!"
- "Discernment is needed about what's needed in the parish"
- "The Lord has worked in so many ways – the Holy Spirit has answered much"
- "A good Council with a good working relationship"
- "Continue to look forward"
- "Easy, good group to work with – quality people – productive"
- "Keep building on this"
- "Please keep teens in prayers for their upcoming mission trips"
- "Continue to stay involved, especially for those leaving the Council"

- “Many thanks!”

Closing: Molly Fara offered a closing prayer, with the meeting then ending at 9:17 p.m. Rick Peterson was thanked for providing tonight’s refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary