

St. Margaret Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
November 4, 2008

Members Present: Brian Churilla, Tom Cordaro, Bob Hansen, Don Helgeson, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Terry Kerr, Jim Krema, Kevin Lynch, Mike Nordbye, Rick Peterson, Mike Prus, Nancy Rutkowski, Barb Ryan

Members Absent: None

Guest Presenter: Leo LeClair

Jim Krema, Pastoral Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He also introduced Leo LeClair, who was invited by Fr. Paul to present on DuPage United. Although Leo's presentation was not listed on tonight's agenda, Jim noted that Leo would do this at the end of the first half of tonight's meeting prior to the break.

Mike Prus led the opening prayer, along with a Scripture reading.

Formation Session on Theological Reflection: Tom Cordaro, Justice/Outreach Minister, and Mike Prus, Business Manager, led a 30-minute formation session based on theological reflection. This session started with a 10-minute video, *Break Forth Into Joy: Beyond a Consumer Lifestyle*. Reflection also focused on the excerpt from the introduction of Juliet B. Schor's *The Overspent American: Why We Want What We Don't Need* (which was electronically distributed prior to tonight's meeting).

Tom explained that tonight's reflection continued to relate to the upcoming January Staff and Council Theological Reflection Day (1/10/09) to be held with Staff and Council. Tom noted that tonight's materials continued to explore current patterns on the signs of the times, as relating to our traditions, culture, and experiences. He posed three questions about these:

1. How is God at work in all these signs of the times?
2. How do we as a parish participate/ cooperate?
3. How does our discernment impact our pastoral priorities?

This theological reflection activity also helps relate to the Active Listening Parishioner Interview Process that Staff and Council Members in which will be participating shortly.

"Active Listening" Parishioner Interview Process: Tom Cordaro provided a more simplified guideline sheet on *Suggestions for Doing One-on-One Interviews* to assist with each Staff and Council Member's completing two interviews with parishioners. When making contact and setting up these interview meetings, the Council decided that it was very important to convey the following with each of these:

The purpose of these interviews is to help us better understand the challenges facing parishioners in order to better fulfill the mission of the parish.

This Active Listening Parishioner Interview Process will also include the following steps:

1. Each Council member needs to turn in the names of their planned interviewees to Kevin Lynch by the end of this week. In doing this, some control over achieving a better demographic sampling (as to interviewee gender, age, and years in this parish) can hopefully be done in advance. One suggestion included having each Council Member submit four possible interviewee names, including two probable ones and two additional ones as “back-up.”
2. Following this, each Council and Staff Member should complete their two parishioner interviews and submit their reports (not containing any personal data or identifying information about the interviewees) to Kevin or Mike prior to the December Council Meeting. Electronic submission of these reports as Word documents is greatly preferred.
3. Kevin Lynch and Mike Nordbye will then organize and distribute the information obtained through these reports to all Staff and Council Members prior to Christmas for their review prior to the January 10th day of reflection.

Mike Prus noted that, with 19 people (Staff and Council Members) each completing this activity with two interviewees, qualitative data should be obtained on 38 parishioners through this Active Listening Interview Process.

Guest Presentation on DuPage United: Leo LeClair, a SMMP parishioner since 1986, reported on the DuPage United Delegate Assembly that he recently attended. While working at Catholic Charities and Bridge Communities in DuPage over the past several years, Leo was aware of the efforts to organize the congregations in the county and the resulting establishment of DuPage United. He provided a summary sheet of projects presented at the assembly that DuPage United has worked on over the past three years. One notable example includes this organization’s recent commitment to hold the College of DuPage Board of Trustees accountable in their handling of the search for the college’s new president. The board hired a new president while the former one still has a contract and is being paid a salary. This is the second time this has happened without explanation. Another example is DuPage United’s work with Robert Schillerstrom, DuPage County Board Chairman, to help restore health and human services funding in the county budget.

As noted in a previous presentation to the Council in 11/07 by Amy Lawless, DuPage United is “...an inclusive, broad-based, non-partisan, grassroots ‘organization of organizations’” that helps “...take collective action for social and economic change that will benefit the people of DuPage County and surrounding areas.” Comprised primarily of interdenominational congregations and some non-profit groups, it helps build a network that addresses such issues as “...health care, transportation, education, public safety, affordable housing, and economic development.” For further information, please see DuPage United’s website at: <http://www.dupageunited.org/aboutus/page7.html>

Following this, the Council took a break from 8:15 to 8:25 p.m.

Announcements and Approval of October Minutes:

The Pastoral Council approved the minutes from 10/07/08, with Kevin Lynch motioning, Nancy Rutkowski seconding, and the Council unanimously approving these. Jim Krema will then post the minutes to the Pastoral Council web page, and Kevin Lynch will summarize these for inclusion in the parish bulletin.

Diocesan Cluster Meeting: Jim Krema recently attended a diocesan cluster meeting with representatives from all of the Naperville parishes (with the exception of Holy Spirit Parish), along with St. Scholastica Parish. This meeting focused on possible changes in the dialog of the Mass, in order to achieve closer translations from Latin. Mary Oliphant and Deacon Ken Miles also attended this from SMMP.

While Fr. Paul stated that the diocesan priests have also met about this, he does not know when these changes might actually be implemented. He also noted that the movement for closer translations from Latin in the liturgy was first started by Pope John Paul II. However, there appears to be difficulty and delay in achieving any consensus on these changes in English among the large number of English-speaking countries in the world.

Appreciation Night (1/24/09): Although a Parish Appreciation Night was left off the 2008-09 parish calendar due to budget constraints, plans were made to reconsider this later in the new fiscal year. Due to an upward trend noted in recent collections, the Council feels that a Parish Appreciation Night can be held, while keeping the budget for this under \$5,000. The Council would also like this to include “finger foods” rather than a sit-down buffet dinner. Brian Churilla, Barb Ryan, and Jim Krema will now be working on plans for this Appreciation Night. The Council also noted that it would also like to encourage greater attendance, especially by parish religious education catechists.

Pastoral Council Constitution:

In ongoing efforts to review and revise the Pastoral Council’s Constitution (last revision in 2005), the Council recently received a list of possible changes to the current text of some Articles that it had previously reviewed and discussed at previous meetings.

Fr. Paul Hottinger moved that the Pastoral Council approve the changes in the Pastoral Council Constitution, with Terry Kerr seconding, and the Council unanimously approving these.

It was suggested that some clarification be developed that explains the phrase “Principle of Subsidiarity” which is found in Article II and Article IX.

It was recommended that we identify a source that defines this principle in the context of Catholic Social Teaching. This can be added as an addendum in the future or the reference made available.

Commission Reports:

Administration: Mike Nordbye, Administration Representative, summarized this committee's activities (Administration Minutes from the 10/15/08 Meeting having been electronically distributed to the Council in advance). He noted that the choir was in need of a replacement hanging microphone, for which Tom Hill, Administration Committee Member, will be funding himself. In addition, the committee approved the snow removal contract for this winter season ahead and hopes to be able to approve the Park and Ride parking lot plan with the City of Naperville by the committee's next meeting. Lastly, the committee will continue to discuss the possibility of obtaining new kneelers.

Christian Education (CEC): Bob Hansen, CEC Representative, stated that this committee did not meet during the past month. Its next meeting will be on the second Thursday in November. The Council also commented that the inclusion of an All Saints Academy activity summary in the parish bulletin is very helpful and informative.

Christian Service (CSC): Nancy Rutkowski, CSC Chairperson, reported that she has received positive feedback from her committees about the consolidated report about each of the committees' activities (CSC 10/25/08 Summary Report electronically distributed in advance). She noted that the corrected date for the Annual Remembrance Mass (Bereavement Committee) is 12/11/08. The CSC will also hold its second formation evening on 12/04/08, with Tom Cordaro speaking at this – its theme will be on *The Spirituality of Christian Service*.

Christian Worship (CWC): Don Helgeson, CWC Representative, stated that, while the CWC had met on 11/03/08, he did not yet have a chance to write up and electronically distribute the minutes for this. Don noted that the CWC also talked about possible changes in the liturgy (see Diocesan Cluster Meeting above).

Hospitality/ Newcomer's Reception (11/18/08):

Rick Peterson, Hospitality/ Newcomer's Reception Chairperson, reported that the committee is looking at how other parishes conduct their welcoming of new members. SMMP's committee will continue to work closely with Mary Straub in the Parish Administration Office on welcoming. Rick noted that this committee is trying hard to extend personal touches to invitations mailed out to 30-40 new parishioners for the 11/18/08 Newcomer's Reception, especially through follow-up phone calls. Fr. Paul also stated that he needs to talk with anyone interested in joining the parish who lives outside of the parish boundaries.

Fall Commitment Weekend (11/22/08-11/23/08):

Barb Ryan reported that Bill Hassett will be speaking briefly at all of the Masses on this weekend, thanking those who turned in completed commitment cards this past spring but requesting that others finally complete these for turn-in. In addition, parishioners will be encouraged to contribute through the ParishPay system. The return of these commitment cards is needed so that the parish can budget for its expenses and programs. While these cards will not be mailed for this fall Commitment Weekend, a commitment card turn-in table will be set up in the back of the church – Council Members are asked to help staff this table. A notice will also appear in the bulletin about this Fall Commitment Weekend.

As required by the Diocese, the ushers took attendance census counts at all of the Masses during three weekends in October. The Council felt that it would be helpful for the parish to also receive this data to confirm its attendance trends.

Other:

Men's Club Presentation: Rick Peterson, Pastoral Council Vice-President, reported that he was recently invited to speak to the Men's Club in January. He would like to see their agenda and is, likewise, hoping to find out the topic on which they would like him to speak.

Pastor's Comments: None.

Final "Whip" Around: Comments included:

- Good meeting, stimulating - looked forward to this
- Receiving commission reports in advance is helpful
- Great meeting – interesting theological reflection
- Glad to have attended tonight.

Closing: Tom Cordaro offered a closing prayer, and Bob Hansen was thanked for providing tonight's refreshments. The meeting then ended at 9:05 p.m.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, in Room 8.

*December Opening and Closing Prayer: Tom Cordaro and Mike Prus
December Refreshments: Barbara Ryan*

Open Action Items:

Person Assigned	Date of Origin	Item Description	Due Date
Entire Council	10/7/08	Choose two interview candidates and send names to Kevin Lynch.	12/2/08
Entire Council	10/7/08	Conduct interviews, prepare a one page report and e-mail to Kevin Lynch	12/16/08

Respectfully submitted,
Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary