

**St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**December 2, 2008**

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

**Members Absent:** Brian Churilla, Mike Nordbye

**Guest Observer:** Christa Selig (new parishioner)

Jim Krema, Pastoral Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Tom Cordaro led the opening prayer and reflections based on Scripture.

**Formation Session on Theological Reflection:** Tom Cordaro, Justice/Outreach Minister, and Mike Prus, Business Manager, led a 30-minute formation session with theological reflection. This formation session was based on a document, *Studying the Bible* (Center for Parish Development, Chicago), which was electronically distributed prior to tonight's meeting. Tom and Mike explained that tonight's reflection continued to relate to the upcoming January Staff and Council Theological Reflection Day (1/10/09) which will be held with Staff and Council Members. Tom noted that tonight's theological reflection was also linked to tradition, culture, and experiences. Mike and Tom then also posed the following questions about this theological reflection:

1. How is God at work in "the signs of the times: that we have discerned?"
2. How do we as a parish participate and cooperate in God's work in the world?
3. How does our discernment about these questions impact our pastoral priorities as we move forward from here?

There will also be one more formation session with theological reflection being planned for the next Pastoral Council meeting (1/6/09), prior to the January Theological Reflection Day.

**Update on "Active Listening" Parishioner Interview Process:** Kevin Lynch provided an update on the parishioner interview process that is currently being completed by each of the Parish Staff and Council Members. Kevin then noted that he and Mike Prus have now received approximately half of the interview reports, with a request that the remainder still need to be submitted to him by 12/15/08. Kevin and Mike will review these reports for interviewee confidentiality and content quality. These interviews appear to contain good demographics, although there is some need to include more parishioners in the "under 25-year" and "over 71-year" range – otherwise, they contain a good balance in gender, age, and years. Fr. Paul highlighted the importance of Staff and Council Members talking and meeting with parishioners rather than merely focusing on data collection for this interview process.

**Announcements and Approval of November Minutes:**

**The Pastoral Council approved the minutes from 11/04/08, with Don Helgeson motioning, Kevin Lynch 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.

**Fall Commitment Weekend (11/22/08-11/23/08):** Jim reported that the Development Committee will monitor and analyze the data from the commitment cards that are being turned in by parishioners through the end of 2008. This fall Commitment Weekend was held so that parishioners who did not turn in a commitment card in the spring could still do so, along with their being encouraged to sign up for ParishPay automated giving. The Development Committee will then meet in mid-January with the collected data, reporting to the Council in February.

Meanwhile, the parish interim quarterly report (July 2008 through September 2008), as prepared by the Finance Committee, will appear in this coming weekend's bulletin. Although there has been a good trend showing an increase in recent collections that are in line with the current budget, there is a need to stress that some severe cuts had been made to programs and services, resulting in a reduced budget from previous years.

The Council and Development Committee also received results of the attendance count census that the greeters took at all of the Masses during three weekends in October 2008. The Diocese had requested this census data, and the Council felt that it would be helpful for the parish to also receive this data to confirm its attendance trends.

**Parish Appreciation Night (1/24/09):** Jim reported for Brian Churilla (Appreciation Night coordinator) in his absence about current efforts being made to publicize this Appreciation Night through bulletin announcements and invitations to the many parish volunteers. Commission heads will be receiving packets of invitations to distribute to their committee members, and religious education catechists will be receiving their invitations in their respective parish mailboxes.

The Appreciation Night will be on 1/24/09 from 7:00-11:00 p.m. in the Parish Center and will include appetizers and desserts. Jim noted that the music, as provided by some members of the Contemporary Choir, will be similar to that of past years. In addition, each Council Member will also be asked to help tend the beer and wine table for a half-hour shift at this, too.

**Pastoral Council Constitution:** Jim reported that the updated Pastoral Council Constitution, which the Council approved at the November meeting, is now posted through a link on the Pastoral Council web page. In addition, a more detailed explanation about the phrase "Principle of Subsidiarity" (found in Article II and Article IX within the Constitution) is now also linked to the Pastoral Council web page. He thanked

Sr. Madelyn and Terry Kerr for providing this additional explanation about this phrase.

In addition, the current Pastoral Council meeting agenda is now posted to the Pastoral Council web page.

Following this, the Council took a break from 8:10-8:25 p.m.

### **Commission Reports:**

**Administration:** In Mike Nordbye's absence, Jim summarized the Administration Commission's recent activity (11/19/08 meeting minutes electronically distributed to the Council in advance). This Commission is still awaiting further information from the City of Naperville about the proposed use of SMMP's parking lot as a Metra Park and Ride location – the Commission will delay its decision about this until mid-December. The Commission also renewed the snow removal contract with Falduto's,

The Teen Center received new carpeting, and its renovation was completed in time for the November Alpha Retreat. Meanwhile, twenty-five church kneelers, deemed most in need of new padding, were removed and reinstalled with the help of Troop 507 Boy Scouts.

Bishop Sartain will speak to the Men's Club on 12/16/08, and the men of the parish are encouraged to also bring their spouses to this presentation. Lastly, the Men's Club received record high revenues from the picnic in September.

**Christian Education (CEC):** Bob Hansen, CEC Representative, stated that the Commission recently met and that a report on this will be forthcoming to the Council.

**Christian Service (CSC):** Nancy Rutkowski, CSC Chairperson, electronically sent the November 2008 CSC Summary Report to Council members in advance. She noted that there will be a formation evening on 12/4/08, with Tom Cordaro speaking at this – its theme will be on *Compassion: The Spiritual Foundation of Christian Service*.

Bob Hansen asked if Charitable Contributions Committee might be able to increase its focus on helping more local groups (DuPage and Kane Counties) that are in need. In addition, it was clarified that the apartment currently used by one of the Transitional Housing (Daybreak) guest families will be vacated in January due to problems noted with the apartment itself (and not due to problems between the landlord and our guest family).

**Christian Worship (CWC):** Don Helgeson, CWC Representative, reported that this Commission had a great meeting last night, with his plans to electronically send out a report to the Council soon. At this

meeting, there had been much talk about discernment. In addition, the liturgy group is staying very busy during this current season.

**Hospitality/ Newcomers:** Rick Peterson, Hospitality/ Newcomers Committee Chairperson, reported that the Newcomers Reception on 11/18/08 was well attended, with its being held in the new Upper Room. In addition, several new parishioners were registered at this most recent reception. Rick also noted that five new people furnished their names at the Newcomers Sign-Up Table at the last Hospitality Sunday.

The Hospitality/ Newcomers Committee, started in response to the parish's recent "Hospitality" goal, continues to meet monthly, with its plans to hold a Newcomers Reception every two to three months. Council Members are always invited to attend these. Rick also shared plans to meet with the parish greeters, along with his working to better "tweak" the parish website to be more "visitor friendly."

**Other:**

**Parishioners Helping Parishioners:** Tom Cordaro requested that he would like to have the names, addresses, and number in respective families forwarded to him in an effort for our parish to help provide assistance to any of our own parishioners in need.

**Taize Service (12/5/08):** Although First Reconciliation will also be taking place in the church on this same night and time, the Taize service will take place in the Upper Room at 7:00 p.m.

**Combined Parish Choir Christmas Concert (12/7/08):** The Lumen Christi, Contemporary, and Children's Choirs will present a concert at 3:00 p.m. in church (with free-will offering collected for P.A.D.S.).

**THREADS (12/11/08):** Barb Ryan reminded the Council about the *Christmas Alive* program on 12/11/08, beginning with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and also including a "living Nativity" with animals and characters.

**Pastor's Comments:** Fr. Paul shared that he typically is approached by several visitors each week after the weekend Masses - they continue to express how much they have enjoyed the liturgy, along with their having been made to feel welcome. He also commended the Contemporary Choir in their recently providing service in assisting members within their own group. In addition, both the Contemporary and Lumen Christi Choirs have also provided assistance to Transitional Housing (Daybreak) at Christmastime.

**Final "Whip" Around:** Comments included:

- Excellent meeting
- Thanks for keeping on schedule
- Enjoyed prayer service and sharing

- Good to see weekend Mass attendance data – no surprises
- Wishes for a Blessed Christmas
- Appreciated discernment
- Appreciated efforts about a new way of thinking

**Closing:** Tom Cordaro offered a closing prayer, and Don Helgeson was thanked for providing tonight’s refreshments. The meeting then ended at 8:50 p.m.

*The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2009. at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8.*

*January Opening and Closing Prayer: Tom Cordaro, Mike Prus  
January Refreshments: Barb Ryan*

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury

**Open Action Items:**

<b>Person Assigned</b>	<b>Date of Origin</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Entire Council	10/7/2008	Conduct interviews, prepare a one page report and e-mail to Kevin Lynch	12/16/2008
Brian Churilla	12/2/2008	Coordinate Council volunteers for Appreciation Night	1/24/2009