

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
February 3, 2009

Members Present: Brian Churilla, Tom Cordaro, Bob Hansen, Don Helgeson, Terry Kerr, Jim Krema, Kevin Lynch, Tony Mankus (for Mike Nordbye), Rick Peterson, Mike Prus, Nancy Rutkowski, Barb Ryan

Members Absent: Fr. Paul Hottinger, Mike Nordbye

Staff Present: Sue Davey, Patti Guare, Sr. Madelyn Gould, Deacon Ken Miles, John Schlaman, Deacon Terry Taylor,

Guest Presenter: Terry Wagner (Finance Committee)

Tonight's meeting was held in the new Upper Room, with Jim Krema, Pastoral Council President, calling the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Terry Kerr opened the meeting with prayer and a shared Scripture reflection.

Jim announced that Mike Nordbye, Administration Commission Representative, would not be able to attend the remaining 2008-09 Pastoral Council meetings due to his now teaching an evening class on these meeting nights. Jim then introduced Tony Mankus, Administration Commission Chair, who would be representing this commission for Mike.

Announcements and Approval of January Minutes:

The Pastoral Council approved the minutes from 1/06/09, with Terry Kerr moving, Bob Hansen seconding, and the Council unanimously approving these. Jim Krema will now post these minutes online to the Pastoral Council's web page.

Volunteer Appreciation Night (1/24/09): Jim especially thanked Barb Ryan and Brian Churilla for heading up the planning, scheduling, setting-up, and cleaning efforts by the Council; John Schlaman, Music Director, for planning and helping provide the music; and Mary Lou Krauss, Art & Environment Coordinator, for coordinating decorations for this event. Jim requested that all feedback be e-mailed to Barb Ryan and Brian Churilla, for inclusion in this event's notebook records.

Parish Town Hall Meeting (4/28/09 – 7:00 p.m.): Jim requested that this date and time (4/28/09 at 7:00 p.m.) be tentatively set on the parish calendar. This Parish Town Hall Meeting will be an agenda item at the March Pastoral Council meeting.

Review and Refinement of Statements from Council/Staff Theological Formation/Reflection Day (1/10/09):

Tom Cordaro, Justice/Outreach Minister, reviewed the draft of the *Council/Staff Statement: Reading the Signs of the Times and Responding to God's Call*, generated at the 1/10/09 Council/Staff Theological Formation/Reflection Day. He led a discussion about this document's content, requesting rewording and summarization suggestions. While Tom

noted that the bullet points in the Preamble still need to be reformulated into sentences, there was lengthier discussion about whether or not all seven prioritized items in “Our Response to God’s Call” should be presented to the parish. It was also noted that, of the eight parish goals originally identified by the Council in 2008 [please see the *Forward Together* Parish Goals that are posted to the Pastoral Council web page], the Council has typically focused on only three to four of these per year as a more “workable” number – there was some concern raised about the need to also focus on a smaller number of new responses, too. Through a vote taken, the Council approved maintaining four of these original seven “Responses to God’s Call” (# 1,2,3, and 5), with some “word smithing” still needed – in addition, alternative wording is still needed for #5. These responses include:

1. To provide opportunities for deepening our relationship with God in an increasingly complicated world.
2. To be a challenging counter-cultural voice against the darkness [destructive forces] within our Church and our community [our Church, our community, and the world].
3. To strengthen the family unit and promote a culture of personal responsibility and Christian values consistent with Christ’s example.
5. To motivate a feeling of service and vocations of service. [To motivate our members to a deeper sense of service and vocation of service].

Following this, the Council and Staff then took a 5-minute break (8:00-8:05 p.m.).

After this break, Council and Staff divided into four small groups for a 30-minute “brainstorming” session. These four groups included: “Worship;” “Education/Formation;” “Service Within the Parish;” and “Service Outside the Parish.” While working at separate tables, each of these small groups “brainstormed” about what types of additional programs the parish could do in its best efforts to respond to God’s call. Following this, each group posted its “brainstorming chart,” with a spokesperson from each group reviewing this with the entire group at tonight’s meeting.

The staff will subsequently take these “brainstormed” ideas to their next planning meeting to help decide on future parish programs and budget for these. Tom also noted that the Council and Staff will then need to determine what, how, and when to communicate this information to the parish about program priorities and initiatives to implement Council/Staff focus. It was suggested that this might be the main topic at the upcoming Parish Town Hall Meeting.

Review of Current Budget and 2009/10 Budget Process:

Terry Wagner, representing the Finance Committee, reviewed the Interim Financial Report (FY 2009 – July to December 2008). While recent collections have been strong (Sunday collections higher by 5.9%, over budget, and 3.7%

higher than last year), it is unknown whether or not this will be sustainable, given the tough economy. It appears that as their Capital Campaign pledges expire, many parishioners have generously contributed more to the Sunday collection during this 6-month interim. Growth in the automated giving program has also appeared to be helpful. The parish's total expenses were \$5K, or 0.7%, over budget for the first six months. Snow removal services expenses are also running over budget.

Terry then briefly reviewed the projected budget through 2014-15, especially noting that the Finance Committee projects a negative operating fund balance, starting in 2011-12. This is due to uncontrollable costs, such as insurance, utilities, school, and plant maintenance.

Following this, Terry reviewed the budget process for FY 2009/10, outlining a month-by-month timetable for the Council, Commissions, and Staff to follow in working with the Finance Committee. Budget requests need to be submitted by March 31, with the Pastoral Council's anticipated review and possible budget approval in May. If significant issues arise, these can be addressed during May, with expected final budget approval in June.

Based on this, each commission should now be thinking about its priorities, with their being asked to assign numbers to these after the Council's March 3rd meeting. As some of the commissions are no longer meeting on a monthly basis, it was noted that each commission will need to meet in March to work on the budget.

Jim thanked the Finance Committee for its continued work.

Commission Reports:

Administration: Tony Mankus, Administration Chair, reported for Mike Nordbye that 25 church kneelers were recently replaced, with the Council now being asked to do a survey on the other kneelers. In addition, several pews have not been fully secured after some earlier church maintenance work.

Tony also provided an update on the City of Naperville and PACE's continued interest in using part of SMMP's parking lot as a Park and Ride site for Bus Route 689 (Naper Blvd. and Gartner Rd. to the Naperville Metra train station). While the City and PACE have expressed interest in having this bus route originate from the church's west parking lot (currently used by church staff), the Administration Commission recommends use of the east parking lot's far back area instead. This would also entail providing commuter parking slots for 75-100 cars, with SMMP also being required to provide snow removal by 5:00 a.m. While this Park and Ride commuter parking area would not be monitored, the church would receive an indemnity for any "fender bender" accidents sustained there. The church would also receive \$10,000 per year as a Park and Ride site. Tony stated that the Administration Commission is continuing to work through details with the City of Naperville and PACE.

Christian Education (CEC): Bob Hansen, CEC Representative, reported that a former Ad Hoc member had recently returned, with the commission having many updates to provide. Bob also noted that the Harvest Sunday Program volunteer drivers will now need to comply with diocesan youth protection requirements as part of the Protecting God's Children Program.

Christian Service (CSC): Nancy Rutkowski, CSC Chair, reported that the Bereavement Committee is now providing Bereavement Care Baskets to parishioners when they work with SMMP staff for funeral arrangements. She noted that these baskets are Terry Taylor's inception, with their including some non-perishable snack items, a generic book on grief, and a book focusing on the more specific type of loss being experienced.

Christian Worship (CWC): Don Helgeson, CWC Representative, shared many ideas that the CWC has recently generated, including: planning a shared Mass with St. Raphael Parish; promoting cultural relations with other parishes; having an information table about SMMP at local concerts in the park; organizing a tour trip to Old St. Patrick's Church, Chicago; and being a host site for a Feed My Starving Children Program. Don also noted that SMMP will be hosting PADS this year on Holy Thursday night, with a need to coordinate church services and Adoration (scheduled until midnight). He also confirmed that there will be an Easter basket and food blessing on Holy Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

Don requested that a deacon or priest make announcements at the weekend Masses about no parking in fire safety areas. He also asked if approximately 1 ½ feet of the curb by the far east church parking lot entrance could be re-cut - numerous cars are hitting it by accident, especially upon turning into the northernmost row of parking from this entrance. Tony Mankus will discuss this with the Administration Commission.

Pastor's Comments: None. (Fr. Paul is away on vacation).

Final "Whip" Around: Comments included:

- Good meeting
- Welcome to the newest team member, Tony Mankus
- Okay until the budget part – glad I'm not staff!

Closing: Terry Kerr offered a closing prayer, and Nancy Rutkowski was thanked for providing tonight's refreshments. The meeting then ended at 9:40 p.m.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8.

*March opening and closing prayer: Nancy Rutkowski
March refreshments: Terry Kerr*

Respectfully submitted,
Marlyn Ligner Steury, Recording Secretary