

**St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**May 5, 2009**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Guest Presenter:** Kevin Madden (Finance Committee)

**Guest Observer:** Susan Murray (At-Large Member discernment candidate)

Tonight's meeting was held in Room 8, with Jim Krema, Pastoral Council President, calling the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Due to there being no breaks planned during tonight's meeting, Jim asked members to partake of refreshments throughout the course of the meeting. Brian Churilla then offered an opening prayer.

**Announcements and Approval of April Minutes:**

**Guest Introduction:** Jim introduced Susan Murray, an At-Large Member candidate, observing tonight's meeting as part of the discernment process. Two other candidates, Dave Burkhardt and Desmond Curran, were unable to attend tonight's meeting, though.

**The Pastoral Council unanimously approved the final draft of the minutes from 4/07/09, with Bob Hansen moving and Don Helgeson seconding this.** Jim Krema will now post these minutes online to the Pastoral Council's web page.

**Ministry Fair (5/16-17):** Jim requested that two Council Members sign up per weekend Mass to represent Council at the Ministry Fair (5/16-17). This will be held in the Parish Center, with Council representatives needing to be available for questions and answers at the Parish Council table following each Mass. Commission Heads should also plan accordingly to have representatives and displays at their respective commission's tables and should contact Mike Prus, Business Manager, in advance to request tables. Meanwhile, Jim will handle the Pastoral Council's table request and table display set-up for the Ministry Fair.

**Election of New Council Officers (6/2/09):** As Jim Krema and Rick Peterson's terms of office (President and Vice-President, respectively) will be ending in June, any of the six At-Large Members can be nominated for these offices, along with that of Secretary. Jim reviewed the nomination and election procedures that will be used. He also reminded Commission Heads that they can only serve on Pastoral Council for a three-year period, although they are not limited after this time to continuing membership within their respective commissions.

**New At-Large Member Discernment Process:** Brian Churilla and Kevin Lynch reported on this annual discernment process that is currently under way. From the original 20 parishioners who were nominated and contacted, twelve expressed interest, six attended the April information meeting, and three still remain active in the discernment process for this three-year Council commitment. These candidates are currently learning more about the role of the Council, along with its current issues and extent of member commitment sought. Candidates Desmond Curran and Susan Murray's photos and personal reflection summaries will appear in this coming Sunday's parish bulletin. David Burkhardt's information is still being gathered. A final discernment meeting is scheduled on 5/19 (7:00 p.m.). The two new At-Large Members will then attend the Council Meeting on 6/2, along with the Staff/Council Workshop Day on 8/22.

Meanwhile Tom Cordaro had also provided copies of a document in draft form to assist in the discernment process for new Council Members. Not only should Council Members have good attendance at Pastoral Council Meetings, but their participation in additional task forces and sub-committees, diocesan formation meetings and events is also sought. In addition, Council Members' spiritual leadership and positive attitudes within the parish community are also deemed as vital.

**Parish Town Hall Meeting (4/28):** As a follow-up discussion, the Council felt that the recent Parish Town Hall Meeting went well and was also fairly well attended. As learned through the Town Hall Meeting, improved communication and outreach within the parish is needed. In response to this, the Council is interested in learning more about e-mail communication systems, such as Naperville School District 203's *Talk203*, which would allow parishioners to indicate their preferences and optionally participate. Parishioners would then register to receive more specialized parish e-mail communication, e.g. from various interest groups and ministries. Council Members expressed thoughts and concerns about privacy issues in publishing parishioners' e-mail addresses in a directory and in posting parish leaderships' e-mail addresses online. They would also like to know about the costs of such a communication system. Jim and the Website Committee, which will be meeting shortly, will further investigate this prior to the next council meeting.

**Diocesan Cluster 4 Meeting (4/27):** Don Helgeson and Nancy Rutkowski had attended this meeting focusing on liturgy updates. The Vatican has requested that certain changes be made in the liturgy to provide a more literal Latin to English translation than what occurred as a result of Vatican II. In response to this, the American bishops will be voting on the last of these changes at the Bishops' Conference on November 9, 2009, with liturgy catechesis tentatively beginning in December 2010. Approximately 40 hymns will be approved by Rome for use at Mass. Local bishops will need to approve any others. In addition, all hymns will need to be Eucharistic-based. The three publishers currently producing the Missal/ Hymnal are all affected.

Three training workshops will be given within the Illinois/Indiana Region about these upcoming changes. These will be given for priests, followed by deacons,

and lastly for staff/parish leaders. Meanwhile, all seminarians have resumed studying Latin again as part of their curriculum.

Lastly, there was discussion at the recent Diocesan Cluster 4 meeting about whether or not the Diocesan Annual Appeal could take place during Lent. Tom Kappel will bring this up at the next Council Meeting with our Bishop.

**2009/10 Budget:** Kevin Madden, Finance Committee Chairperson, reviewed a 2009/10 budget worksheet (showing budget changes and comments). He stated that the Finance Committee is comfortable with the 2009/10 budget, especially since it is keeping costs flat in this current economy. One problem area exists in the collection of non-adult religious education fees, with some families not having paid these despite reminder notices. The Council unanimously approved the 2009/10 budget. Each Council Member spoke about the budget, with many comments of “thanks” and “good job” being offered to Kevin and the Finance Committee for all of their hard work. Kevin also noted that the 2009/10 budget preparation process was a dramatically and cooperatively different process than in some prior years, mostly due to the goal to keep this new budget flat and to the cooperation of the Commissions.

**Staff/Council Workshop Day (8/22):** Tom Cordaro, Justice/Outreach Minister, updated the Council about efforts still being made to find a resource person speaker for a presentation at this workshop. This workshop will now use a new format, with its only being held on a single day rather than its having a “kick-off” evening, too. He noted that Staff is already planning parish programs for 2009-10 around the new *In God We Trust?* parish theme.

**New 2009-10 Parish Theme *In God We Trust?*:** Information about the new 2009-10 parish theme *In God We Trust?* was presented at the recent Town Hall Meeting. Further communication about this new parish theme will be provided in the bulletin within the next few weeks and during the summer. In addition, the main “kick-off” for the new *In God We Trust?* theme will be held at the Parish Picnic on 9/13. Tom Cordaro will be the “point person” for this. Sr. Madelyn has already carefully followed this theme in planning and scheduling a number of upcoming adult religious education programs.

### **Commission Reports:**

**Administration:** Tony Mankus, Administration Committee Head, reported that the proposed use of the east/southeast portion of SMMP’s parking lot as a weekday PACE bus “Park and Ride” site has recently received several “spirited” responses in opposition from neighboring homeowners (Knolls of Huntington subdivision, Naperville). They have expressed concerns about increased noise and diesel fume pollution from waiting buses. While Tony has not heard anything back yet from neighboring homeowners in the Green Trails subdivision (Lisle) or from the Green Trails Improvement Association (GTIA), he hopes to hear back from them shortly. He also suggested that an information meeting be held soon, possibly in another “town hall” format, with neighboring homeowners.

Clear communication through a bulletin article will also be provided to the parish about the Park and Ride site. Meanwhile, none of the other area churches which are weekday Park and Ride PACE bus sites have shared any negative experiences. The Council also expressed concern about the slowness of the traffic light on Green Trails by Naper Blvd. A Town Hall Meeting about the Park and Ride site should be coordinated through the Pastoral Council in the near future. Meanwhile, it is important to convey that an agreement with PACE and the City of Naperville would only be for a one-year trial period.

Two contractors are coming over soon to provide comments and suggestions about the west church entrance stairs and landing slab's concrete problems. These have historically posed water seepage problems, which have not been resolved.

In addition to new "no parking" signs along the west entrance fire lane, the Council also requested outdoor directional signs for the church's main entrance, the Parish Office, and the Religious Education Office.

**Christian Education (CEC):** Bob Hansen, CEC Representative, reported that the recent First Communions, held during the 10:45 a.m. Sunday Masses, required a time change for the 12:15 p.m. Masses immediately following these. Instead, next year's First Communion Masses will be held during the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass and 12:15 p.m. Sunday Mass, so that they will not impact other regularly scheduled Masses.

While the CEC did not meet in April, Bob reported that it handled budget issues this past month by phone and e-mail contacts.

**Christian Service (CSC):** Nancy Rutkowski, CSC Head, electronically sent an April 2009 report in advance. She noted that Bereavement Ministry will be holding a Motherless Daughters "Circle of Remembrance" program tomorrow night. In addition, Daybreak Transitional Housing Ministry needs help on 5/9 with picking up and transporting donated furniture and household items for its new family – a list of these requested items appeared in this past Sunday's bulletin, with donors requested to contact Pat McAuliffe. Lastly, Don Helgeson shared that he noticed a recent church bulletin insert (obtained from a church recently visited) that contained a very well done pamphlet explaining the differences between embryonic vs. adult stem cell research, which might also be used by SMMP's Pro-Life Committee.

**Christian Worship (CWC):** Don Helgeson, CWC Representative, reported that he will be electronically sending minutes from last night's CWC meeting shortly. The CWC did not meet in April. Don also noted that the Staff/Council Workshop Day is on the same date (8/22) as Feed My Starving Children (Aurora), for which Don has reserved 41 worker slots from SMMP. While Don had originally hoped to attend the latter as SMMP's coordinator (as well as have staff and council participants, along

with their families and friends, at this), he will now try to recruit participants (along with a coordinator) from the Men's Club, scouts, and Quest groups for the 8/22 date.

**Pastor's Comments:** Fr. Paul asked if any Council Members would be able to attend a meeting with the new Illinois Governor and other religious community representatives in Highland Park on 5/17. This meeting will be held as a follow-up on issues important to religious communities. Brian Churilla volunteered to attend this.

The Diocese of Rockford will be closing Archbishop Romero Catholic School, Aurora, due to a \$1.7 million deficit, its not being able to make payroll, and enrollment down to 183 students. As SMMP would like to continue helping its two sharing parishes in Aurora, the Council will need to hear from the Sharing Parish Committee about any recommendations for assisting former students from Archbishop Romero School. Sharing Parish Committee will continue to raise funds to assist its sharing parishes through the flea market and craft show – in addition, Charitable Contributions Committee has made previous contributions to these two sharing parishes.

Fr. Paul also affirmed that only consecrated communal cups can be used for the consecrated wine as part of the Eucharist. Since cup purification is needed, disposable "communion cups" cannot be used.

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

- "Interesting meeting – glad that I was here."
- "Good meeting."
- "Thanks for sharing."
- "Good sharing tonight."
- "Appreciated that the budget process was not so scary."

**Closing:** Brian Churilla offered a closing prayer, and Tony Mankus was thanked for providing tonight's refreshments. The meeting concluded at 8:45 p.m.

*The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8.*

*June opening and closing prayer: Rick Peterson*

*June refreshments: Jim Krema*

Respectfully submitted,  
Marlyn Ligner Steury  
Recording Secretary