

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
June 2, 2009

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

Members Absent: None

Tonight's meeting was held in Room 8, with Jim Krema, outgoing Pastoral Council President, calling the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Outgoing Council Vice-President, Rick Peterson, shared a Scripture reading and led an opening prayer that included prayer requests.

Announcements and Approval of April Minutes:

Introductions: Jim introduced and welcomed the two new At-Large Members, Susan Murray and Desmond Curran. While they could participate at tonight's meeting and could also be elected as a 2009-10 Council Officer (Secretary), Jim explained that, in accordance with the Constitution, they would not be able to nominate candidates or vote for 2009-10 Pastoral Council Officers.

The Pastoral Council unanimously approved the final draft of the minutes from 5/05/09, with Kevin Lynch moving and Don Helgeson seconding. Jim Krema will now post these minutes online to the Pastoral Council's web page. Outgoing Council Secretary, Kevin Lynch, also asked for feedback on the narrative style (rather than the previous "table" format) that he used this past month in summarizing Council minutes for the parish bulletin.

Follow-Up on Ministry Fair (5/16-17): While Jim stated that all went well with the recent Ministry Fair, attendance after the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass was poor – it was also noted that there were no refreshments served on Saturday night, with very little traffic also seen through the Parish Center then. While refreshments were served as part of Hospitality Sunday the following day, attendance at Sunday's Ministry Fair was much better. It was suggested that next year's Ministry Fair be held in the Upper Room and Upper Room Foyer and that refreshments be included for both days. Some concern was raised, though, about possible refreshment spillage in the new area.

Jim also noted that communication to the committees about this year's Ministry Fair was not very good, with a suggestion that more ample advance notification, e.g. one month beforehand, be provided in the future. While parishioners had also received ministry sign-up mailings prior to Ministry Fairs in previous years,

no mailings were done this year – if mailings would be done again, this would be at an additional expense. In addition, a number of parishioners seemed to not be aware of this Ministry Fair despite articles about this having appeared in the bulletin for 3-4 weeks prior to the event. It was also suggested that ministry sign-up forms be made available both before and after future Ministry Fairs, with convenient turn-in places located at church for these, too.

Evaluation of At-Large Member Discernment Process: Brian Churilla and Kevin Lynch, who chaired this year's At-Large Member Nominating Committee, provided additional feedback about this year's recruitment and discernment process. While 20 parishioners were nominated this year, Brian noted that many of these nominees whom he contacted by phone had been previously unaware of their having been nominated. Some discussion followed about the importance of nominators also informing nominees about this in advance.

Kevin noted that, of the original 20 nominees, 12 responded about their planning to attend a discernment meeting, with only 8 actually attending this meeting. Some of these candidates then dropped out after having felt "intimidated" by the others' perceived qualifications, including service and longevity within the parish. Additional discussion focused on the desirability of Pastoral Council to include a representative cross-section of the parish rather than consisting of members with "impressive" qualifications. Jim thanked Brian and Kevin for their efforts on chairing this year's At-Large Member Nominating Committee. He also suggested that some discussion be included at the 8/22/09 Staff/Council Workshop Day to reexamine what type of representation should be sought in future At-Large Members.

Parish Website Committee and Expanded e-Communication: Jim recently met with the Website Committee and indicated that he will continue his involvement with this committee for at least a while longer. He noted that, with upcoming attrition in this committee's membership, recruitment of new committee members will also be needed. He requested that names be submitted to either Mike Prus, Business Manager, or to him – in addition, a bulletin article should also be run to recruit new Website Committee members. While some professional consultative website help might also be needed, compensation could only be provided for this on a short-term basis. Such a consultant would then be asked to review what already is in place on the parish website, while also considering how to improve outreach e-communication. Jim also recommended that any future plans for the parish website wait until Fall '09 in order to be "shored up."

Tom Cordaro has also shared information about www.flockNote.com as an additional way for churches to expand its sharing and receipt of information in a manner similar to www.myspace.com or to blogs. FlockNote can also be incorporated into the parish website. Tony Mankus also affirmed that the parish website tracks the number of visitors, currently up to approximately 500,000. The

parish calendar site is also frequently visited. If parishioners optionally sign up to receive future e-notification about special topics, committees, or interest groups, it will also be especially important that staff and parish leaders regularly submit updated content. The parish website and parish e-communication system(s) will also need continued maintenance in order to remain current.

Commission Reports:

Administration: Tony Mankus, Administration Commission Head, provided an update about the proposed use of the east/southeast portion of SMMP's parking lot as a weekday PACE bus "Park and Ride" site. Tom Hill (Buildings and Grounds) has already contacted the City of Naperville's liaison with a request for a Town Hall Meeting in Fall 2009, with representatives from PACE and the City of Naperville to meet with neighboring Lisle and Naperville residents.. Some issues associated with this planned "Park and Ride" site include the Green Trails Road/Naper Blvd. traffic light's timing, along with bus runs coinciding with Kennedy Jr. High's school traffic. SMMP has offered the use of 75 parking spaces at SMMP, with plans for PACE Bus Route #689 starting at SMMP's parking lot and ending at Fifth Avenue Station, Naperville (and the reverse). These plans also include three morning bus runs and seven evening bus runs. Information about this proposed "Park and Ride" site will appear in the parish bulletin shortly.

Two new "tow zone" warning signs are now in place in the west church parking lot, with additional plans for the gutter area to be painted yellow. Since the parking lots will be repaved soon, this gutter painting might be included as part of the parking lot's re-striping. While outdoor directional signs providing guidance to the church's main entrance, the Parish Office, and the Religious Education Office have been recommended, there are no plans yet for this additional signage. Tony recommended that Council Members contact Mike Prus about this.

Tony reported that contractors have recently examined the west church entrance stairs and landing slab's concrete problems, with the landing slab now being filled in. The water seepage problems that have historically caused deterioration to the west entrance stairs have not yet been solved. While these steps have been patched, plans are underway to obtain a professional concrete evaluation. Tony also stated that these west church entrance concrete problems are not posing an immediate safety issue.

Lastly, the roof leak within the church sanctuary appears to be coming from around the skylight area. The Administration Commission will now be seeking proposals for this repair and will likewise look into obtaining bids on possible soffit repair. It was also noted that the bushes bordering the east church parking lot and St. John Vianney Retirement Home are in

need of more frequent seasonal trimming so as to not obstruct traffic visibility.

Christian Education (CEC): Bob Hansen, CEC Representative, submitted CEC minutes from 5/14/09 in advance, he reported tonight that Religious Education registration is now closed for elementary (preschool-Grade 5), Journey (jr. high), and Quest (high school), although adult formation program registration remains ongoing. Due to a slightly smaller number of high school students registered, there will be one less Quest group needed in 2009-10. Plans are underway to start two new ministries, including one for post-college singles (ages 21-30) and for parishioners in the military -- Candy Rice is heading the start-up efforts for these two new groups.

The mission trip to Clintwood, WV, will depart on 6/6/09 – participants will include high school and college students, and adults. Bob also reported that the annual Youth Leadership Conference will be held in July.

There was also a short discussion about whether SMMP could provide preschool daycare. Kevin Lynch mentioned that he has previous experience serving on preschool boards and can thus provide much information about the many challenges that preschool daycares could pose. Nevertheless, church support for this would be very important.

Christian Service (CSC): While Nancy Rutkowski, CSC Chairperson, had previously sent a May 2009 summary report in advance. She noted tonight that most committees were “winding down” now for 2008-09. She is now planning CSC meetings in 2009-10 for September, November, January, and March and is lining up speakers for these. The meeting in September will focus on prayer, with all of the committees invited to attend. Nancy is also continuing to accept new volunteer names for the various committees in CSC.

Christian Worship (CWC): Don Helgeson, CWC Chairperson, reported that the CWC is now off for the summer and will resume meeting in the fall.

Election of 2009-10 Council Officers: Jim reviewed election guidelines and officer duties for the offices of President, Vice-President, and Secretary, with these terms being 1-2 year commitments. Candidates for these needed to be any of the six At-Large Members, with the office of Secretary usually filled by one of the new At-Large Members. Jim also noted that the two new At-Large Members could not vote or nominate for next year’s officers. A separate nomination and paper balloting process was held for each of these offices, with the following results:

President – Barbara Ryan
Vice-President – Kevin Lynch
Secretary – Desmond Curran

The new officers were congratulated, and outgoing officers were duly thanked. Jim Krema and Rick Peterson are also completing their terms on Pastoral Council.

Jim then reviewed a summary sheet of Diocese of Joliet's guidelines for Pastoral Councils to (1.) provide a better understanding of a council's role with its pastor, staff, and parish; (2.) define its primary work of visioning and strategizing; and (3.) define its secondary work of advising and budgeting. According to these guidelines, strategic plans should also be made for a 3-5 year time-frame. In accordance with this, SMMP is still working well with Pastoral Council's Eight Strategic Goals and Vision Statement (from 2008). Tom Cordaro also noted that the Staff and Council have worked very closely together in 2008-09, with much of the Council's agenda including Staff-directed activities during the first half of the year. This had been viewed very positively. Tom also noted that the work done this year with the theological discernment process was "cutting edge."

Pastor's Comments: Fr. Paul thanked Jim Krema and Rick Peterson for heading Pastoral Council during his first two years as SMMP Pastor. He stated that he has found Council to be very skillful, with his giving thanks to them, too.

Final "Whip" Around: Comments included:

- Good meeting!
- Thanks to Jim and Rick for their mentorship.
- Thanks to the new and old officers.
- It is worthwhile for new officers to "pick a special passion" on which to focus in order to improve within the parish.
- Welcome to Susan (Murray) and Desmond (Curran).
- What a pleasure my first year on the Council has been, and what a learning experience!
- Looking forward to next year!
- Very impressive recent slide show about the Commissions.
- Will especially miss the special treats provided by Gail (Krema).
- Thanks to the entire Council – you were awesome in facing new and difficult challenges!
- Thanks to the full Council – you were visible and impressive.

Other: Following this, Kevin presented Jim and Rick with cards and thank-you gifts for their three years of service on the Council. Jim also thanked Marlyn Steury as Recording Secretary and presented her with a card and floral basket.

Closing: Rick Peterson led a closing prayer, and Jim Krema was thanked for providing tonight's refreshments. The meeting concluded at 8:40 p.m.

The Staff/Council Workshop Day is scheduled for Saturday, August 22nd.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary