

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
September 1, 2009

Members Present: Brian Churilla, Tom Cordaro, Desmond Curran, Bob Hansen, Don Helgeson, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Terry Kerr, Kevin Lynch, Tony Mankus, Susan Murray, Nancy Rutkowski, Barb Ryan

Members Absent: None

Guest Presenter: Stephanie McElligott (Cluster 4 Representative)

Tonight's meeting was held in Room 8, with Barb Ryan, new Pastoral Council President, calling the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Paul Hottinger opened with prayer and then led a guided reflection on the article *OPENING CHARGE 2008: Educating for Justice and Democracy* by F. Clark Power (9/16/08). This article had been distributed to the Council prior to tonight's meeting.

Announcements and Approval of June 2009 Minutes:

Guest Speaker Introduction: Barb then introduced Stephanie McElligott, our Cluster 4 Representative to the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC), who presented on Cluster 4 and the DPC at tonight's meeting.

Diocesan Office of Ministry Formation: Barb reported that the Diocese of Joliet's Office of Ministry Formation has announced some administrative changes, including the recent departure of Yvonne DeBruin, whom Doug Delaney and Fr. Joseph Tapella are temporarily replacing. Barb will provide the Council with additional updates as they occur.

Parish Picnic (9/13/09): Larry Riebold has provided sign-up sheets to the Council for unfilled Parish Picnic volunteer slots. These sheets were then passed around during tonight's meeting.

Pastoral Council Meeting Sign-Ups (2009-10): Barb provided sheets for Pastoral Council members to sign up for leading opening/closing prayers and providing refreshments for the 2009-10 meetings.

The Pastoral Council approved the final draft of the minutes from 6/2/09, with Kevin Lynch moving and Terry Kerr seconding. These will now be posted online to the Pastoral Council's web page, with former Council Secretary Kevin Lynch summarizing these for inclusion in the SMMP parish bulletin.

Presentation on Cluster 4 and the Diocesan Pastoral Council: Stephanie McElligott, our Cluster 4 Representative to the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC), provided updates to the Pastoral Council on these and encouraged active participation within the Cluster. St. Margaret Mary Parish (SMMP) is one of the seven parish members of Cluster 4, which is comprised of five Naperville parishes (excluding Holy Spirit), along with St. Joan of Arc (Lisle) and St. Scholastica (Woodridge).

As a conduit to the bishop, the DPC acts as a visioning and consultative body with no decision-making powers. Stephanie noted that the DPC is a great way to convey parish information to the bishop, especially about best practice ideas and parish challenges that are shared at the cluster meetings. She requested that each Cluster 4 parish then appoint a Pastoral Council representative to attend the three meetings scheduled for 2009-10. However, Barb Ryan stated her preference to request that certain SMMP Council representatives attend Cluster 4 meetings that best match their special interests, ministries, and area of expertise to the cluster meeting's featured main topic. For example, Barb will represent SMMP at the 9/17/09 meeting focusing on planned giving and the annual appeal, as she is also on SMMP's Development Committee.

As Stephanie requested that a parish representative should plan to provide a 3-5 minute report at each of the cluster meetings, which will then be included in the minutes to the bishop. In case a parish cannot send a representative to a specific cluster meeting, she requested that parish information be e-mailed to her for inclusion in the Cluster 4 meeting minutes. Meanwhile, Don Helgeson asked if there was any response to SMMP's recent question posed at a Cluster 4 meeting about whether or not the Diocesan Annual Appeal could be held during Lent – Stephanie stated that she would follow up on this.

As part of next year's focus on and celebration of the *Year of the Eucharist*, plans are now underway for the 2010 Eucharistic Congress, utilizing a convention-like format in Joliet. With Catholic evangelist Fr. Robert Barron as the keynote speaker, plans are being made for 30,000 attendees at this. Meanwhile, the Diocesan Assembly, which is held every two years, will also specially focus on the Eucharist – 200-300 attendees (with 5-6 representatives per parish) are anticipated at this.

All Saints Catholic Academy (ASCA): According to Colleen Ryan, SMMP's board representative for All Saints Catholic Academy, ASCA is currently rolling out a three-year strategic plan. As SMMP is one of ASCA's three founding parishes, SMMP's Pastoral Council is invited to ASCA for a tour and presentation, with hopes that this could then be combined with a regularly scheduled Council meeting. SMMP's Council accepted the invitation and will hold its next meeting (10/06/09) at ASCA, with plans to also partake of a tour and presentation then. Barb will contact ASCA about this.

Fr. Paul noted that there are three pastors (each from one of the ASCA's three founding parishes) on ASCA's Executive Board. Each pastor then takes a turn as ASCA's Pastor and Executive Leader.

Parish Pictorial Directory for 2010: With SMMP's most recent parish pictorial directory having been produced ten years ago, Fr. Paul noted the need for an updated one. Although some efforts were made five years ago for an updated pictorial directory, production of this had never come to fruition. Fr. Paul then recommended that the Council consider contracting with Olan Mills Studios for a new 2010 directory, based on the quality of their portrait work and their offers to

do most of the contact and follow-up work. With the Council being in consensus, follow-up will be done on pricing and timetables with Olan Mills Studios.

Commission Reports:

Administration: Tony Mankus, Administration Commission Head, reported that the City of Naperville is now focusing on an alternate location for a weekday planned PACE bus “Park and Ride” site, with SMMP’s now being a “second draft choice.” This was in response to significant vocal opposition received, especially from the Knolls of Huntington Homeowners Association and from the Principal of Kennedy Jr. High School. Based on these new developments, the Administration Commission recommended to the Pastoral Council that SMMP’s being a “Park and Ride” site should now be considered a moot issue, with the City and parish mutually deciding not to go forward with this. The Commission will send the City of Naperville a letter acknowledging this, along with also communicating this decision in writing to the neighbors, homeowners associations, and Kennedy Jr. High School. As this issue was raised in the bulletin, it was thought that the decision not to proceed should also be placed in the bulletin.

The south church entrance stairs and landing slab’s concrete problems have now been repaired. Caulking work will begin tomorrow in an effort to fix the steeple’s water leaks. It was also noted that the southwest window in the working sacristy also has a water leak and needs repair. Tony stated that Dick Backer will reexamine the old parish building’s soffits for possible replacement work in the spring.

Christian Education (CEC): Bob Hansen, CEC Representative, noted that there is a 5-10% decline in Religious Education enrollments in certain age groups. However, peer ministry is showing its highest enrollment ever! Candy Rice, Youth Ministry/ High School Director, is seeking several post-college students to assist with this year’s peer ministry. Two new ministries – one for 20-30 year old singles and one for those serving in the military – are now being formed, with strategic planning meetings having recently taken place about them. Meanwhile, an investigation into SMMP’s possibly offering an Early Childhood Program for 3- and 4-year olds is currently under way – Bob hopes to have a report on this by next month.

Plans and publicity are now under way for guest speaker Doug Brummel’s *Lighten Up* presentation (designed for a multi-generational audience on faith and family) scheduled on 11/13/09 for SMMP’s *Threads* Program. This *Threads* Program on 11/13/09 will include light refreshments but no dinner. It was noted, however, that the speaker, Doug Brummel, has requested that all other parish activities be cleared for the week prior to his presentation. However, the Council expressed concerns that this would not be possible and noted a possible date conflict with the freshmen Alpha Retreat. It is recommended that SMMP Business Manager, Mike Prus, be contacted about these possible scheduling conflicts immediately.

Christian Service (CSC): While Nancy Rutkowski, CSC Representative, had previously sent an August 2009 summary report out in advance, she added that there will be a formation night and social on 9/24/09 at 7:00 p.m. in the COR Center. Nancy will lead the prayer service for this. She noted that any parish members doing ministry work are invited to attend.

Susan Murray added that the Newcomers Committee will meet on 9/14, with plans to select a date for the next Newcomers Reception then.

Christian Worship (CWC): While Don Helgeson, CWC Representative, had previously sent a summary report of the Commission's 8/25/09 meeting in advance, Don added that Mary Lou Krauss, Art Environment Director, is designing liturgical banners for the 9/13/09 kick-off of the parish's new "In God We Trust" theme. In addition, Fr. Julian will be presenting on 10/27/09 at 7:00 p.m. about the numerous upcoming liturgical changes at Mass – it was recommended that bulletin announcements be run about this very soon.

In addition, Don reported that Deacon Ken Miles is currently working on a bulletin article about the gestures used at Mass. Greg Scriba is working on recruiting new lectors to replace those who have left this ministry.

Other:

PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter): Don Helgeson reported that SMMP will again be a PADS host site once weekly on Thursday's, with it resuming in September rather than in October. In response to Brian Churilla's question about how the laundry process works at PADS, Don described the procedure currently used by Trinity Lutheran Church during Summer 2009. Each PADS guest with laundry needs does the following:

- relinquishes his/her PADS identification card at the beginning of the evening in order to obtain one net laundry bag
- submits the filled laundry bag to PADS volunteers, who then wash and dry the contents (with two guests' laundry bags typically washed in the same load)
- receives his/her clean laundry (still needing to be folded) and PADS identification card by the next morning, upon return of the empty net laundry bag.

The Pastoral Council expressed its interest in pursuing exploration of on-site laundry provisions at SMMP for its PADS guests. Don is talking with vendors and exploring the purchase or donation of one heavy duty washer and two dryers. Don noted that Pat Bush has talked with St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, which has expressed willingness to donate something toward appliances. Don has also spoken with SMMP's Men's Club, which is willing to contribute \$500 toward the electrical and plumbing work required. It is also recommended that these appliances be located in the

Mechanical Room across from the “old” Parish Office, with these appliances to only be operated by authorized PADS volunteers. Don will provide updates shortly.

Following this, the Council took a break from 8:35-8:50 p.m, during which time Kevin Lynch took photos of each member for inclusion in the parish bulletin.

Goals for Parish 2009-2010 Theme “In God We Trust”: After the break, Council Members divided up into small groups to further work on the wording, prioritizing, and setting timelines for communication and hospitality goals for the parish’s new theme “In God We Trust.” These goals were developed at the Council/Staff Day on 8/22/09. After working on these for 30 minutes, the Council reconvened at 9:25 p.m. and discussed their work on these. A representative of each small group was asked to electronically submit their group’s updated work to Barb Ryan shortly.

Brian Churilla will investigate the cost of non-permanent outdoor signage (for communication about special programs).

Tom Cordaro and Kevin Lynch will work on talking points for the staff and Council about our “In God We Trust” theme.

Pastor’s Comments: None.

Final “Whip” Around: Comments included:

- Productive meeting
- More people involved tonight
- Thanks!
- Concern about the length of Commission Reports (which took 25 minutes tonight) – please send out Commission Summary Reports electronically in advance!
- Good sense of accomplishment – good creative discussion
- Congratulations to Barb Ryan on leading her first Council Meeting!
- Good energy and input
- Good listening to each other – good food!

Closing: Fr. Paul offered a closing prayer, and Barb Ryan was thanked for providing tonight’s refreshments. The meeting concluded at 9:45 p.m.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6th at All Saints Catholic Academy, starting at 7:00 p.m.

*October Refreshments: to be provided by ASCA Hospitality
October Opening and Closing Prayer: Brian Churilla*

Respectfully submitted,
Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary