

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

Tonight's meeting was held in Room 8, with Pastoral Council President Barbara Ryan calling the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Tom Cordaro, Justice/Outreach Minister, led an opening prayer service, which also focused on next week's Parish Social Mission Week Theme -- "Living in God's Abundance."

Announcements and Approval of October Minutes:

The Pastoral Council approved the final draft of the minutes from 10/6/09 (also containing the correction of "Newcomers Information Table"), with Kevin Lynch moving and Terry Kerr seconding. These will now be posted online to the Pastoral Council's web page.

Hospitality Sunday Sign-Up (11/8): Council Members signed up to help "mingle" at the upcoming parish Hospitality Sunday, as well as help staff the Newcomer's Information Table, after each of this weekend's Masses. Council Members are requested to wear their nametags, which are located in the upper left corner mailbox along the north wall of the Parish Center. Every Council Member's goal should be to meet at least two new people per Hospitality Sunday.

Parish Social Mission Week -- "Living in God's Abundance" (11/7-11/13): Tom Cordaro summarized activities planned for the upcoming Parish Social Mission Week -- "Living in God's Abundance," focusing on Catholics working to help end global poverty. Parishioners can sign up for the Catholics Confront Global Poverty Campaign (through Catholic Relief Services) after all Masses on 11/8. In addition, they can also sign up for one-time local service opportunities in November after all Masses on 11/8, including: Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry; DuPage PADS; and DuPage Senior Citizens Council.

Autumn Day of Reflection -- "Trust Alive" (11/11): Sr. Madelyn and Gail Krema will be presenting this day of reflection in the Upper Room from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (including lunch). Advance registration is needed, with a \$30 donation.

THREADS -- Doug Brummel's "Lighten Up" Presentation (11/13 -- 6:47 p.m.): Council Members are encouraged to attend this special *THREADS* program, designed for all ages. Registration is required, and free will offerings will be taken. Barb Ryan stated that 400 parishioners are already registered to attend this.

Fr. Paul's 34th Ordination Anniversary Mass (11/22 – 10:45 a.m.):

Fr. Paul will be celebrating his 34th ordination anniversary at the 10:45 a.m. Mass on 11/22/09.

Bulletin Publication of Summarized Council Minutes: As a follow-up to last month's discussion about decreasing the length of time between Council meetings and actual publication of the summarized minutes in the bulletin, Council Secretary Desmond Curran helped clarify suggested procedures. While there are no actual monthly deadlines set for this, Desmond stressed the importance of Council Members submitting their edits and comments to the Recording Secretary within approximately 2 weeks after receiving the initial draft of the minutes. Even if they have no additional edits to submit, Council Members are asked to reply about their having reviewed this draft. However, the summary being prepared for the bulletin will not be circulated to the Council in advance for their approval.

While the bulletin's Council minutes summary will usually be in single-page format, it will consist more of headlines excerpted from the full minutes. The finalized minutes will be posted online following Council's approval at the subsequent month's meeting.

Catholics Come Home (Diocese of Joliet): Fr. Paul provided a lengthy report about Bishop Sartain's evangelization initiative, *Catholics Come Home*, planned by the Diocese of Joliet in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Chicago and Diocese of Rockford (www.CatholicsComeHomeJOLIET.org). Numerous television commercials will be aired during 12/16/09-1/24/10 on all major networks in English, Spanish, and Polish to welcome inactive Catholics back to the practice of their faith. Individual parishes within the diocese, along with St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center, will also need to be ready for responses generated by this initiative. While the diocese will be providing extensive programs and resources to assist parishes in better meeting these responses, parishes can then select from a large amount of these according to their needs.

"The tri-diocesan *Catholics Come Home* evangelization initiative will have three parts: the Invitation; the Welcome; and the Accompaniment." In preparation, SMMP is now forming a special Ad Hoc committee, with Council Member Kevin Lynch and Nancy Rutkowski volunteering to help Rick Peterson and Joe Ferrari with this. It is also noted that the parish's Welcoming Committee, along with front office staff, will need to be well prepared to meet these initial inquiries generated, including delayed inquiries received over the ensuing months. Fr. Paul views these evangelization efforts as being a very good idea, which should have a positive effect on the parishes.

Signage Update: Brian Churilla provided updates on signage, including his having contacted and met with the Men's Club last month to seek their support for church outdoor signage. According to Brian, the Men's Club is very interested in providing funding for one or two "v"-shaped banner signs. The parish Administration Commission will obtain bids for the signage fencing supports, with Brian planning to attend the next Administration Commission meeting about this. He will also contact the City of Naperville to ensure SMMP's compliance with all

signage ordinances. It was highly suggested that the fencing be installed shortly before the arrival of winter weather and that the parish staff have continued input on all future banner signs' messages.

Development Committee Report: On behalf of the Development Committee, Barb confirmed that Fr. Paul will introduce this year's annual commitment card campaign at all of the Masses on 11/14 and 11/15. Letters will then be mailed out about this during the subsequent week, with reminder announcements made at church the following weekend. The deadline for completed commitment card submission is 12/31/09.

2009-10 Communication Goals: Barb reviewed the 2009-10 "Communication" goals made by Council and Staff, noting that good progress is being made toward obtaining outdoor signage. Preliminary efforts are also being made toward improving the parish's electronic communication, with Barb's having recently investigated electronic systems currently used by other local parishes. The Council expressed an interest in finding out more about an e-mail marketing service called "Constant Contact," including whether or not good technical support is available for this subscriber service. This e-mail service has templates available for churches, with a monthly fee determined by the number of e-mail subscribers. For example, the monthly fee for up to 5,000 e-mail subscribers would be approximately \$50.00, and the number of e-mail messages sent monthly is unlimited. Barb will contact the parish Website Committee about "Constant Contact." With the parish Website Committee having recently decreased in size, there was also some Council discussion about whether or not some investment should be made for contractual technical help.

Following this, the Council took a break from 8:00-8:15 p.m.

Commission Reports:

Administration: Tony Mankus, Administration Commission Head, responded to questions about the Administration Commission Meeting Minutes from 10/21/09, which were electronically sent in advance. He stated that, while major efforts were recently made to fix the steeple leak with the assistance of a large crane, a small leak was detected this past Saturday following heavy rain. This steeple leak will again need to be revisited. Meanwhile, the sacristy window leak will be addressed with outside caulking. Due to the wood threshold flooring strip (between the original church entrance and the new entrance foyer) posing a safety hazard, Tony explained that it will be replaced by a smaller beveled strip shortly.

Christian Education (CEC): Bob Hansen, CEC Representative, responded to questions about the CEC Meeting Minutes from 10/22/09, which were electronically sent in advance. The 11/13/09 *THREADS* Program featuring Doug Brummel will not include a meal, although light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Christian Service (CSC): Nancy Rutkowski, CSC Commission Head, had electronically sent the CSC Meeting Minutes from 10/21/09, summarizing recent activities of 22 service committees. She announced that all of the CSC service committee members are invited to attend a faith formation prayer service in December, with Tom Cordaro speaking to the group about how to hold productive meetings and train for these

Christian Worship (CWC): Don Helgeson, CWC Representative, responded to questions about the CWC Minutes from 10/27/09, which were electronically sent in advance. The CWC meeting consisted of a presentation by Fr. Julian on upcoming changes to the Liturgy. Don also anticipates Fr. Julian to present again on these liturgical changes. While it is still unknown as to when these changes will occur, making the translation of the Liturgy more of an exact Latin translation, plans include having all English-speaking Catholic churches around the world to change over to the new Liturgy at the same time. Meanwhile, Fr. Julian believes that the Hymnal will remain largely intact, although the recessional hymn will be eliminated.

Don added that the ushers are currently in the process of taking an attendance count at all of the Sunday Masses during a three-week period.

Volunteer Appreciation Night: Although the parish is “in a very different place financially this year,” with parish collections currently \$21,500 under budget, all of the Council Members expressed their interest in still holding a Parish Volunteer Appreciation Night. They felt that it was still very important to show appreciation toward the numerous volunteers from numerous ministries and commissions through this annual event, although expenses would need to be scaled down. Plans include using as much parish equipment and furniture as possible rather than renting these. Brian Churilla will be contacting several caterers about less expensive food items, while also contacting Brian Pelz, Contemporary Choir Director, about the availability of Contemporary Choir musicians to perform at this year’s Volunteer Appreciation Night. Available January dates for this parish event currently include January 2nd, 16th, and 23rd.

Early Childhood Development Program: Bob Hansen reported that he recently met with Theresa Hawley and Sr. Helen Jean Kormalink recently met to discuss the possibility of SMMP having an early childhood development program. Theresa had presented School District 203 demographics, linking the Dist. 203 Early Childhood Center (still under construction) and extended day care needs for low-income preschoolers. However, Sr. Helen Jean stated that an early childhood center at SMMP would need to be a subsidiary of All Saints Catholic Academy (ASCA), as required by the diocese. As a subsidiary program, early childhood program staff would be hired through ASCA, with SMMP furnishing the classroom space (possibly Rooms 4 and 5). Several meetings about this are scheduled later this week, with ASCA Principal, Sandy Renehan, providing additional information about these. Bob noted that no decisions or recommendations have been made yet. SMMP has now completed its investigation into an early childhood program.

Other: Fr. Jonathan Foster, OFM, founder of Mayslake Ministries and frequent weekend assistant and spiritual advisor at SMMP, will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee in 2010. Barb Ryan noted that SMMP will also be planning a parish-wide recognition of Fr. Jonathan Foster's jubilee (apart from the Mayslake Ministeries Dinner Dance/Fundraiser on 2/12/10).

Final "Whip" Around: Comments included:

- "Good meeting"
- "Some interesting things were brought up tonight"
- "Good compromises"
- "Thanks"
- "Very impressed about new challenges and how we deal with these"
- "Very glad that the Volunteer Appreciation Night will still be held"
- "Good listening skills shown"

Closing: Tom Cordaro offered a closing prayer, and Don Helgeson was thanked for providing tonight's refreshments. The meeting then ended at 9:05 p.m.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1st in Room 8 (St. Margaret Mary Parish), starting at 7:30 p.m..

December Refreshments: Brian Churilla

December Opening/Closing Prayer: Don Helgeson

Respectfully submitted,
Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary