

St. Peter's Cathedral
Pastoral Council Meeting
October 13, 2008

Attendees: Fr. Steven Beatty, Chris York, Jeanette Surmeier, Sr. Tess Markus, Dawn Marlow, Tony Gugliotta, John Stier, Mike Marek

Council members not in attendance: Fr. Myler, Jean Dinges, John McCoy, Tom Segert, Bill Barbieri, Erik Schifferdecker

Opening Scripture and Youth Prayer: The Chairperson, Christine York, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The council prayed the youth prayer together.

Approval of minutes: Tony Gugliotta moved to approve minutes, Dawn Marlow seconded. The council approved the minutes.

Chairperson's report: With the upcoming completion of terms for two council members, Chris York stated the council needs to consider elections to replace the council members. The pastoral council by-laws require a minimum of eight elected members. Since the council currently consists of nine elected members, with two ending their terms in December 2008, only one additional member needs to be elected.

Youth ministry report (Fr. Beatty presented on behalf of Erik Schifferdecker): Luke 18 planning is underway.

Committee Reports:

1. Buildings and Grounds (Fr. Beatty on behalf of John McCoy): Work is continuing on the sinks in the Convent, and other work is underway to dig up the sewers to keep water from backing up in Convent basement.

2. Social Justice (Dawn Marlow):

- Twenty-four walkers participated in the St. Vincent de Paul Walk, netting \$1,858. The committee reported the results to the national St. Vincent de Paul organization.
- The committee stopped giving out bus passes. They will hold them while working on budget classes. Harmony Health came to the breakfast on Saturday, October 11, 2008, and passed out information on free health care.
- The committee passed out containers for Cosgrove's Kitchen on October 12, 2008.
- Members of the Social Justice Committee visited St. Patrick's Center in St. Louis, looking to incorporate additional ideas into the Cathedral's social justice work. St. Patrick's Center talked about their process for getting the homeless off the streets. Their approach is to provide housing first and get people cleaned up. This makes it easier for them to get jobs. In Missouri, organizations may obtain tax credits to re-hab buildings for housing for the homeless. St. Patrick's Center just opened a 20-room facility. They also started a consulting

group to help other organizations obtain tax credits for homeless/low income housing. The St. Patrick's consulting group does everything – publicity, deal with the city, talk with mayor, etc. After talking with the Cathedral Finance Council, the Social Justice Committee obtained approval to evaluate using the Pants Factory as housing for the homeless. This process will take time, and the committee is too late to qualify for tax credit this year. During a previous discussion, Fr. Myler suggested the need to have a Parish meeting to discuss options with the Pants Factory. The Pants Factory looks like a good candidate for such a facility, according to the consulting group. They will contact Dennis York to discuss ideas.

3. Liturgy (Fr. Beatty):

- The Liturgy Committee met and decided on dates/times for Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas Masses and events. The committee planned decorations for these celebrations.
- The committee also discussed starting evening prayer on Sunday evening leading into the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Another idea was the possibility of moving to a sung Mass.
- Thursday Bible study will start 30 Oct for six weeks, except for Thanksgiving.
- The next Liturgy Committee meeting will occur February 10, 2009.

4. Life-Long Faith Formation (Sr. Tess Markus):

- The Parish currently has eight active Small Christian Faith Community groups. Most are using either the *Quest* book or the *Why Catholic?* book.
- For Thanksgiving, the parish will do the “Bread and Prayer” and collect food.
- For Advent:
 - Fr. Myler is looking at other options to replace the Nativity Scenes displayed last year.
 - The parish will sell religious articles at the church entrance from the Vineyard Bookstore the weekend of 15/16 November.
 - The Giving Tree presents collected this year will benefit the Pregnancy Care Center, Violence Protection Agency, 10 families adopted through the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and people who attend the Saturday morning breakfasts.
 - Fr. Myler passed around a book from *The Magnificat* series called *The Advent Companion*. This was proposed as a replacement for the *Little Blue Book* series from the Diocese of Saginaw the Cathedral Parish has traditionally made available during Advent. The Committee reviewed the book and agreed to order 300 copies for this upcoming Advent season. This book also contains much of the same material Sr. Theresa traditionally provided as a hand-out to Cathedral grade school and PSR students every year during Advent. The committee decided *The Advent Companion* will meet this need, and so no hand-outs will be provided this year.
 - The Committee also decided to provide advent calendars to Parish school and PSR students.
- Fr. Myler will continue a film series, with the November 3rd showing entitled “White Light – Black Rain,” which is about the current survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings. A December 2nd showing will be of the “Fourth Wise Man,” about a 4th Magi who seeks Jesus during his lifetime. The February 2nd showing will be about the 50th anniversary of the call for Vatican II. The subject for March 2nd is not decided, but the April 6th showing will be an NBC production entitled “Last Days of Jesus.”

- Fr. Steven's Thursday evening Bible study will continue with 6 weeks on the Book of Revelation, with the first session starting October 30th. The Thursday of Thanksgiving Day will be skipped.
- The Bishop will conduct a session on Saturday, October 25th, at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., for lectors, extraordinary ministers, cantors, ushers, and greeters.
- Sister Theresa also asked the committee members to assist with several upcoming events.
- The week of January 4th, Donna Thro will write the article for parents who have had children baptized.
- The next meeting of the Life-Long Faith Formation Committee is planned for February 3rd, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory Library.

5. Finance Council (Tom Segert): No report (absent).

Old Business:

Parish Web Page (Tony Gugliotta): Tony will contact Paul Lindauer to see if Fr. Myler talked with him.

Undercroft Handicap Access (Mike Marek): At the recommendation of the City of Belleville engineering department, Mike contacted Belleville Fence Company for an estimate for a handicap access ramp handrail. Mike had not received the estimate by the time of the council meeting, but he did pass around a brochure with pictures and specifications for various types of railing.

Parishioner social: The Parishioner Social will be held after the Sunday, October 19, 2008, 10:30 Mass. Sister Tess is planning for 100 attendees. Jeanette Surmeier, Chris York, and Dawn Marlow will help Sr. Tess. Fr. Beatty suggested having new parishioners handle arrangements for the next one as a way to get to know more people.

Come home for Christmas program: Fr. Beatty and Sr. Tess provided a hand-out on "Catholics Returning Home" to the council members. The council discussed the best approach to finding and contacting Catholics who no longer attend Mass for various reasons. The council agreed to a multi-pronged effort that includes leaving cards in the pews for parishioners to write names of people they know who might be interested in returning to the Church. Additionally, the Priests can make announcements at Mass, and finally, bulletin notices can be used to get the word out. Once names are obtained, the Parish can send invitations to the people asking them if they want to return to the Church during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The council discussed possibly asking Steve and Jeanette Schranz and Nick and Phyllis Lang to do invitations or a letter (they have done something similar before). Placement of the cards in the pews should continue from early November until Christmas. Sr. Tess and Fr. Beatty will decide which weeks in November and December to publish a flyer or bulletin notices. Fr. Beatty and Sr. Tess will collaborate on the bulletin announcement and flyer. The 3x5 cards will contain a short note, and will be placed in the pews and on the ledges along with pencils. Dawn Marlow suggested people who nominate others to also let church know if they attend after receiving an invitation. Fr. Steven passed around a draft flyer, which everyone thought could be turned into a nice, personal card. The card will likely be sent week of Dec 7.

Cathedral Neighborhood Watch: Jim Schneider from Belleville mayor's office referred the Social Justice Committee to meet with Mr. Schlosser, who is known to have started the neighborhood watch program nationally. Mr. Schlosser was under the impression the Cathedral wanted to start a neighborhood watch, but, in reality, the Cathedral wants to work with an existing one. Mr. Schlosser provided names of current neighborhood watch coordinators. Lt Jim Sparger, Belleville City Police, would be the neighborhood watch officer.

Parish Census: Sr. Tess asked Dennis York, the Cathedral Business Manager, for the most recent list of people in the Parish directory and compare with it with Parish records. Many people have died or moved away, so the records need to be updated.

New Business:

Giving tree. Sr. Tess suggested needy people/families from Saturday morning breakfast, pregnancy care, violence protection agency would be good candidates. She also asked for 10 families from St. Vincent de Paul. The Cathedral Grade School and PSR will take families, too (9 families). The council agreed with this suggestion. Dawn Marlow will take care of getting what the Saturday morning breakfast group needs and making the ornaments for these gifts. Sr. Tess needs the information by November 29 because that's when they set up the Giving Trees. Parishioners can choose ornaments November 29th and 30th and December 6th and 7th. Gifts need to be provided to the needy families by December 21st, so parishioners need to provide the presents the week of December 13th/14th. New giving trees will be purchased this year. These same trees can be used to replace dilapidated trees for the Nativity scene. The older trees will be gradually replaced with new trees. The Cathedral will be decorated for Christmas on Monday, Dec 22, at 6:00 pm.

Elections: Need to elect one adult and one youth representative.

Special Prayer: Fr. Beatty will hold a special prayer session on Wed, Oct 15th, from 5-8 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. He will give a benediction and prayers for the sanctity of human life.

School masses. Use of the new Cathedral Grade School chapel has settled into a routine. This facility has been well-received by students and teachers.

Opening prayer for next meeting: Mike Marek volunteered to do the opening prayer for the next council meeting.

Next meeting: Monday, November 10, 2008

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Marek