

**St. Francis de Sales**  
Parish Pastoral Council  
Minutes from the Meeting of  
June 1, 2010

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**In Attendance:** Lynn Richardson, Mark Mauter, Jean Flowers, Karen Lutze, Francie Hiebel, Eric Wright, Marilyn Messick, Steve Schorger, Tony Wright, Chris Lesch, Marian Skeen, Martin Joyce, Deb Shelly, Sue Grindrod, Kelleen Albert, Nancy Shonebarger, Angelo Annarino, Molly Lally, Jack Durham, and Father Bob

**Excused:** Luke Nutter and Matt Tanner

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** None

- The meeting began with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- The meeting was opened with a prayer.
- The Parish Council Mission Statement and Parish Mission Statement were read aloud by all present.
- The April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved with some grammatical corrections.
- Role was called by Secretary Chris Lesch
- New members to the Parish Council introduced themselves and they were: Molly Lally, Angelo Annarino, and Jack Durham.

**Pastor's report:**

- *Parish Finances* - Parish Offertory is still down around \$91,000 and at this point in the year it is unlikely to improve. In setting next year's budget, we have had to make a lot of economic changes across the board. We are not budgeting for an increase in offertory. As a result we have to make some difficult decisions. Some members of staff have already seen a reduction in their hours, and unfortunately Finance Board agreed that we couldn't financially sustain every position.

As a result Theresa DeMers lost her job. Father stressed that this is because of our current financial situation and not a reflection on Theresa herself. Even with these cuts we will still be facing a deficit of \$111,000 next year and the Generations Stewardship campaign in the fall will therefore be critical. Hopefully the economy will begin to improve though as we all know Licking County is still heavily impacted with a jobless rate of around 10.5%.

- *Church Organ* - We are waiting on a third estimate for the work that needs to be done to the organ and there has been no progress there. We need to do something with the organ within the next 18 months; otherwise it will be beyond fixing. We may have to borrow the money from the diocese in 2011 to fix the organ.
- *Parish Ministries* - The Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (EMC) and Lectors have all gone through a re-training this year to tighten up procedures. Father will be

writing to the Lectors to remind them that a different lector must proclaim each reading. They cannot double up. The number of EMCs being re-commissioned was less than the total number registered and we will follow up with those who didn't attend to see what their intention is. They can still minister but must do a re-training first.

- *Parish Festival* - The Parish Festival was one of the best ever. The weather blessed us with a great day and people came out in droves. The new 5K race was a great success. We think we will clear between \$16-18,000. A person mentioned that not all songs sung by the band were appropriate for all ages. Next year we will review the song selection beforehand.
- *School* - The end of the school year went very well. We projected a reduced enrollment for next year and are currently at 395. (Last year we were at 417.) We usually gain some students over the summer and will hopefully do the same this year. Families are struggling though and we have had the biggest ever number of requests for financial assistance. We have helped as much as we can.

This number is exclusive of pre-school. Technically the pre-school is not part of the school and is a Parish Ministry. For the Diocese of Columbus, the state school board only recognizes K-12 and so the pre-school program is separate. We have a full pre-K class at this time. The pre-school is good about getting students into kindergarten and the director of the program is establishing a good reputation.

- *Volunteer Hours* - School Advisory Board has agreed to a new volunteer hours policy and details have been sent home to every family with report cards. The new volunteer year starts June 1<sup>st</sup> and will end April 30<sup>th</sup>. This is so that in future the Festival will be the first major activity of the year rather than the last. The new policy emphasizes cost saving and revenue generating volunteer activities, but there are still a good number of other activities for parents to participate in.

There is a comprehensive list of items that qualify for volunteer hours. We have been very fair and have included things like boy scouts, girl scouts, some committee work, etc.

- *First Grade Class Size* - There have been some issues in first grade about the size of the class affecting children's learning. Dr. Spain has sent home a letter to all parents giving them the facts – 80% of the students are above the standard for the grade. Those that fall below it are being given additional help. Next year the grade (now 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) will be split into groups in class so that those struggling, and those who are gifted, can receive additional attention. Seven years ago class sizes were 27 – 30 students and this didn't have a detrimental impact on the students. Newark schools have about 30 students per class. Currently class size is around 27. The diocese says the minimum number of students in a class is 18 and the maximum is 36.

- *Parish 5 Year Program* - Over the summer Father will be inviting about six people (or there about) to join a new group whose job will be to develop a five-year plan for the parish. This has not been done since Fr. Bill Johnson's time. The group will report to Parish Council and Father Bob with its recommendations. Father hopes that the group will begin its work in September and be finished by March 2011.
- *Parish 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* - Parish Council needs to start thinking about what it would like to do to celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. How do we want to mark this significant event?
- *Mail boxes* - The Parish Council has mail boxes out by the parish offices.

### **Committee Reports:**

- *Communication* - Getting signs made up for the new confessional.
- *Youth Ministry* - The Youth Ministry has shut down for the summer and the last activity was seeing a play. Youth Ministry leadership is getting together to plan out next year. The plan is to kick off again next August.
- *Newark Catholic Student Rep* – A person is going to state for track. Boy's baseball team playing is in the semifinals of the state tournament. Graduation activities reviewed.
- *Liturgy Committee* – Didn't meet last month.
- *Election Committee* – We will look at finding a better way to fold the election forms as this was difficult to do because of the size. Discussion was held on limiting the BIO information for each candidate running and putting the BIO information in Generations. More discussion to be held on this.
- *Parish Picnic* – This will be held on September 12 at the Rotary Park. A sign up sheet will be provided.
- *Welcome/Greeter Committee* – This will be taken over by the Liturgy Committee. We will work on getting this up and running in August.
- *Thank you* – Kelleen Albert (Newark Catholic Student Rep) and Tony Wright (Youth Ministry) were thanked for the good involvement in the Parish Council. They were wished the best as they continued onto college.

### **What are we hearing from parishioners?**

- *Pews* - A person saw some sawdust under one of the pews. This was caused by the drilling for the kneelers and this will be corrected. The people that installed the pews are doing minor follow-up repairs.

### **New Business:**

- *Ox Roast* - People that used to work on the Ox Roast at PIME would be willing to make this part of the Festival. This will be communicated to the chairman of the Festival.
- *Floor Cleaning* - We have some extra boards and we are experimenting with the best method to clean the floors. Parishioners come in on Friday night to clean the church and others come in Monday to pick up paper. Also, people pick up the church between Masses.
- *Pepsi Cola* – Instead of Pepsi putting money in Super Bowl advertisement they are giving their money to charity. You can put a request in for what you need money for and then you request people to vote. To win you must get the most votes and you can win up to \$250,000.00 dollars. This might take care of our organ so we'll look into putting in a request and start the campaign to generate votes.
- *Parish Council Office Elections* – We called for nominations from the floor for the following positions and each individual that was nominated was elected unopposed:
  - Chairman --- Karen Lutze
  - Vice Chair --- Lynn Richardson
  - Secretary --- Steve Schorger

### **Old Business:**

- *Representative from the St. Francis School Advisory Board* – The board is having elections and new members coming in June and then we'll ask them to appoint a representative to the Parish Council.