

St. Francis DeSales
Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes from the Meeting of
August 25, 2009

In Attendance: Francie Hiebel, Marian Skeen, Jean Flowers, Lynn Richardson, Steve Schorger, Chris Lesch, Mark Mauter, Martin Joyce, Luke Nutter, Karen Lutze, Deb Shelly, Kelleen Albert, Marilyn Messick, Jim Guinta, Tony Wright, and Father Bob.

Guests: None

Excused: Eric Wright and Matt Tanner

Absent: Tonia Short, Sue Grindrod, and Nancy Shonebarger

- The meeting began with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Day Chapel.
- Mark Mauter opened the meeting with a prayer.
- The Mission Statement was read aloud by all present.
- The June 23rd meeting minutes were approved with one spelling correction.

Pastor's Report:

Catholic Times – The Catholic Times is doing an article on St. Francis deSales and Blessed Sacraments parishes. Father Bob, along with a couple of parishioners, were interviewed about parish life. The article can also be seen at www.colsdioc.org. Once on the website, go to the side bar and look for Catholic Times for the article.

Projects – Many projects were completed over the summer. The most important of these was storm proofing of the larger stained glass windows in the church. The work was well done and in a timely manner.

Chunks of masonry fell from the Lamy Center side of the church where the large Lamb of God window connects to the ceiling. This area is roped off until we can get up to see if any more is likely to fall and whether any major work needs to be done.

One of the glass panels in the cry room spontaneously broke. Thankfully no one was hurt. This room will be off limits until the new glass is installed.

Pew realignment – The Parish Council, Finance Committee, and the Maintenance Committee were presented with a schematic that reorganizes the pews so that we can fit an additional 160 people in the church. Father will have the schematics blown up so that the parish can look at it. This work would be done at the same time the new hardwood floor is installed. (The cost of the floor has been donated.) To lay the floor, the pews will be removed from the church by members of the parish and stored in the Swank building and then will be reinstalled in their new positions.

The schematic also provides the opportunity to move the Tabernacle to the main part of the church under the crucifix. If approved, this work can be carried out at the same time as the flooring or at a later date. It would be nice to move the Tabernacle from its present

location because what has been designed as a Chapel has not worked out that way. It is really a path to the Day Chapel rather than a Chapel set aside for prayer. This is not an appropriate way to show respect for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacraments and we really need a solution.

To do this the ramp would disappear, the Sanctuary would be moved back, and a disabled lift would be built into the steps going to the current Tabernacle Chapel (other churches have and are doing something similar with a lift). We have to think about the feasibility of this and costs. These are just thoughts at this time and no decisions have been made, with the exception of installing the wood floor.

Floors – The wood floors will be installed sometime in February. The person installing the floors is Catholic and will install almost at cost. The carpet in the alter area is fine for now. This could change if and when we decide to move the Tabernacle. It would take about a month to do the floors and during this time we would have church in the gym.

Pipe Organ – The organ is showing age and it needs some major work done to it. Mary Jane Golata and Fr. Bob are looking into obtaining estimates for this work. Like the floor, it cannot be put off much longer.

Generations Campaign - We are preparing for our annual Generations campaign. This year the campaign is more important than ever because the offertory is down. Our end of year deficit was lower than expected and this was only because we received the bill for the storm windows after July 1 (the fiscal year runs from July 1 – June 30). So the cost has to be met this financial year instead. If the invoice would have been paid earlier as expected, the deficit would have been \$95,000. In previous years the campaign has played down financial giving and this year it will have to be emphasized much more instead. We need collections to increase about \$5,000 per month to hold our own.

Parish Picnic – We are gearing up for the parish picnic. It will be held at Geller Park on September 27th.

St. Francis School – We have 421 students, plus the children in pre-school.

Youth Ministry – Our high school youth ministry kicks off in less than two weeks with a team of adults and youth leaders helping.

Junior High Athletics – Fr. Wilson and Fr. Bob have decided after much thought and prayer there would be no practices on Wednesday evening after 6:00 p.m. and no scheduled practicing on Sunday so there is time for faith and family. Games that have to be played or tournaments on Sunday would be okay. To help our coaches understand this, we have scheduled Dobie Moser to come and speak to our Junior High coaches about Junior High sports as part of Catholic youth ministry. Mr. Moser used to work for the diocese, is passionate about sports and Catholic Faith, and the way each should enrich each other.

Donations – Thanks to the generosity of the Women of St. Francis, Father has ordered three new vestments for the priests to wear – one in green, one in red and one in purple. We are waiting for them to come from Spain as the USA has run out of stock. A bequest has also recently been received for \$2,000 and this together with another small bequest we received last year will be put towards purchasing gold and white vestments for Sunday Mass and Solemnities, and five simple vestments for weekday use.

The reason we are spending this money in these economic times is the people who give the bequest want to see how the money is spent and some of our vestments are wearing.

Christmas Crib Set – The Christmas Crib set had some broken pieces. These have been sent to a specialist company in Cleveland for repair and repainting. When they return, we will give parishioners the opportunity to sponsor each individual pieces of the remainder of set to have them restored as well. We think the cost for each piece will be around \$200, with the biggest piece, the camel being more expensive. The restoration of Jesus will be done by the parish.

Committee Reports:

Parish Picnic - We can get a kids' bouncy house for \$160.00. Even with this we will be below last year's budget because of the other things being done to watch expenses. **We need donations for door prizes; cash donations are welcome. Eric Wright is checking out getting porta potties.**

Marian Skeen is securing a group of individuals to set up and tear down the chairs, tables, etc. We need a vehicle to carry the table and chairs and Mark Mauter will drive the vehicle. A member of the Parish Council volunteered to pay for the rental of a U-Haul truck.

Luke Nutter is securing tents. He will also be talking to the Newark Catholic Athletic Association to see if they can get the 20'x 20' athletic tent. If he does, he'll check into this group putting up and taking down the tent.

Deb Shelly to locate the ice cream freezer and has contacted the Knights of Columbus for the grill.

The face painting will be put under a tent.

Constitution Review – Steve Schorger reported on proposed changes to the Parish Council Constitution. He did a very thorough and excellent review of it. He went through each of the suggestions, page by page. The Parish Council will think on them, and we will vote at the next meeting on the proposed changes. Some of the changes were:

1. Page 1 – Title – The “D” in “deSales” will be a lower case “d.”
2. Page 2 – Section 3 was added to include the Parish Mission Statement.
3. Page 3 paragraph “D” – “and the director of the RCIA” is deleted and “pastoral associate” will be inserted.

4. Page 4 Article IV Section 2 – The paragraph was divided from one into two sub paragraphs. The word members was changed to “officers.”
5. Page 5 Article VI Section 1 - Changed the word “Vicariate” to “Deanery” throughout this section.
6. Page 6 Section 2 Paragraph A – Inserted “school board representatives” and deleted “with the exception of the student representative.”
7. Page 6 Article VII Section 2 – Deleted “the News and Views, inserted “Generations.” Section 3 of the Article will have additional wording added.
8. Page 7 Article IX Section 2 and 3 – he works “the News and Views” was deleted and “Generations” was inserted. Section 3 - the sentence “All council meeting minutes will be posted on the St. Francis deSales website on a monthly basis” was changed to “All approved meeting minutes will be posted on the St. Francis de Sales website.”
9. Page 8 Section 7 – Editorial changes made.
10. Suggestions were made to make Document 1 (Role of the Past and PPC in Relation to Parish Ministries), Document 2 (Parish Pastoral Council Orientation Overview) and Document 3 (Taken from The Guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils, Columbus Diocese) separate from the constitution and be in front of the constitution. The order would be Document 3, Document 2, and Document 1.

The revised constitution will be provided by e-mail and we will review for approval.

Communication Committee – The Mission Statement is on the Parish Website and will be posted by the church offices. A future Generations will have a listing of the Parish Council officers and positions. A new Parish Directory is being considered since it has been five years since the last one was done. The Communication Committee will be comprised of Eric Wright, Karen Lutze, and Jim Guinta.

New Business:

Gregg Coffman will be leaving the Parish Council. He represented Newark Catholic on the Parish Council. We will visit with Father Bob to see who the next in line is.

Angelus Cards – Jim Guinta distributed the new Angelus cards. They are in the format of a book marker and are very nice. We will discuss at the next meeting how to distribute them. A Suggestion was made to send a “Thank You” note to Ave Maria University for donating the printing of the Angelus Cards.

Helping elderly leaving Mass – Jim Guinta suggested some parishioners take charge of assisting the elderly entering or leaving Mass, if needed. It was also mentioned that perhaps the ushers could help assist. This could be a role that “Greeters” could assist with at the church doors. Better and brighter lighting at steps would also be a help to the elderly.

Pastoral Report – It was suggested Father Bob send his pastoral report to all Parish Council members ahead of time. This would give the Parish Council time to think of asking any questions.

Parish Mission Statement – It was suggested the Parish Mission Statement be read prior to Parish Council meeting. The council voted on this and it was approved.