

St. Francis de Sales
Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes from the Meeting of
October 27, 2009

In Attendance: Marian Skeen, Jean Flowers, Lynn Richardson, Chris Lesch, Mark Mauter, Martin Joyce, Karen Lutze, Deb Shelly, Kelleen Albert, Marilyn Messick, Jim Guinta, Tony Wright, Eric Wright, Sue Grindrod, and Nancy Shonebarger

Guests: None

Excused: Francie Hiebel, Tonia Short, Luke Nutter, Matt Tanner, Steve Schorger, and Father Bob

Absent: None

- The meeting began with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Day Chapel.
- Mark Mauter opened the meeting with a prayer.
- The Parish Council Mission Statement and the Parish Mission Statement were read aloud by all present.
- The September 22, 2009 meeting minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report: Mark Mauter read the Pastor's report, as Father was away on a retreat.

Theresa DeMers is working on some projects that should help us to reach out to the married couples and families in our parish. She has prepared a questionnaire that is being distributed through a number of groups, including the school and pre-school community, so that we can gauge what our families need and how best we can help them.

Discernment - Three young men from the parish have just returned from a discernment visit to the Josephinum, which they enjoyed very much. Please pray for them as they continue their discernment process.

Father Barry Bentz has agreed to help with confessions and Mass every week from the New Year onwards. This will be a great help to Father Bob as the Sunday schedule would be very demanding otherwise.

All Souls Day and Cemetery Masses - There will be a cemetery service at St Joseph's Cemetery this weekend and then All Souls Day Masses on Monday at 9a.m. and 7p.m. We have sent out special invites to those who have lost loved ones in the last year. The Mass will be offered for all those from our parish who died since November 1st 2008. Their names will be included in the first Eucharistic Prayer.

Missions – Father has been able to schedule the Fathers of Mercy to come to the parish to give a mission during Lent 2011 – we have to book these things way in advance! Father is already working on 2012 and 2013! There may be a more locally focused mission during Lent next year and we need to be conscious that we will also be working around the laying of the new floor. The church will be torn up for a while during that period and we will be worshipping in the gym for part of Lent next year.

Facilities (Pastor's Report Continues):

New Floor -We are continuing to work on the floor and pew project.

Pipe Organ - The work to the organ will only be able to happen once a comprehensive report has been prepared on the true cost of repairs. There will need to be three bids in line with diocesan policy – all this will take time, but at least we have identified that the work needing to be done is major rather than minor and that we need to prepare ourselves for that.

New metal doors have now been installed on the back entrance side of Lamy and we are working on issues with doors that are sticking or not locking down correctly.

Christmas Crib Scene - The pieces of the Crib scene that were sent away for repair have come back and they look very good. We will add them to the crib scene again this year and invite people (particularly visitors) to perhaps make a donation towards the restoration of the whole set. We don't want to take the "adopt a pew" approach with the crib scene at this time because it could confuse people.

Generations - Generations cards are coming in, in good numbers, and after Father's sermon to the parish on giving, some people were very generous and called in to increase their regular donation. Thanks be to God!

Follow-up Items:

- a) Representative for St. Francis School Advisory Board – We need a representative from this board. We will ask Father Bob to check on this.
- b) Dominican Center (Swank Bldg.) – Pipes froze last year in this building. Members of the Parish Council were wondering what has been done to prevent this from happening again?
- c) Windows in Dominican Center – Father will check on some form of covering for the windows while the pews are being stored in the Dominican Center during floor restoration.
- d) Newark Catholic Advisory Board – The Parish Council needs to decide if a 3rd person should be appointed. Discussion was held on whether a third person was needed. A member of the board thought it was not. It was brought up that our parish, because of its size, is entitled to three votes and just having two members doesn't give us our full voting right. A member of the board said the meetings are organized in such a way that voting hasn't come up and meetings are more informational. We will seek another board member's insight and then make a decision.

Committee Reports:

Parish Picnic – It went good and was well attended. It only cost \$400.00 to put on, which is very good. We can't reserve the Rotary Park until March of 2010.

Constitution Committee – Steve Schorger will be responsible for getting the Parish Council Constitution onto the church website.

Election Committee – We will start preparing for the 2010 spring election in November of this year. We will be asking people to prayerfully consider the Parish Council Ministry.

Parish Festival – Derek Myers and Mike Windholtz will be co-chairs for the Parish Festival. We will ask them to provide a status of what is happening when the planning gets more underway. We can get the status by either having Derek or Mike attend a Parish Council meeting or have a Parish Council member attend some planning meetings.

Youth Ministry – Things are going well.

- A guest speaker, Justin Fatica, attended a meeting a couple of weeks ago. He did an outstanding job. They had 35 people and this was 25 more than normal.
- Saints Alive – Some middle school students will meet at Mt. Calvary. People will dress up as different saints and martyrs and give talks about them.
- Some Saturdays throughout the month the Youth Ministry participates in Rosary for Life.
- It was suggested to target Catholics at public schools and attend some of their activities to encourage them to get more involved in Youth Ministry.
- Kelleen Albert reported on the Newark Catholic retreat. It went very well and teachers got involved, which was good.

Communication Committee – The Communication Committee (Eric Wright, Lynn Richardson, Karen Lutze, and Jim Guinta) will meet with Father Bob next week. One of the things to be discussed is de-cluttering the back of the church and make it more reverent. A recommendation on the Angelus Card will be made at the next meeting. It will be reviewed how to publish the Parish Picnic pictures on the church website, or if we even can do that. For the church construction (putting in the floor), time lapse pictures will be placed on the church website for people to see.

Liturgy Committee – This committee is now comprised of working groups. Deacon Steve is the Chairperson. People assigned to the committee will have discerned roles. At the last meeting it was decided to have a prayer for our troops at all Masses. For Advent we will go back to one wreath.

Old Business:

Helping the elderly – This is about helping elderly in and out of the church. Some of the things discussed were:

- a. Getting a Welcoming Committee going and having them help out.
- b. Getting the youth of the parish to help out.
- c. What can the ushers do? We will get the ushers opinion.

Pews and Plaques – Parishioners have asked a few council members what the costs will be to sponsor a pew. Since we didn't know the answer, this was tabled until our next meeting.

New Business:

Volunteer hours - The Parish Council discussed the new Volunteer Hours Program for family members of school children. We will ask Father to address this at our next meeting so we can answer questions that are posed to us from parishioners.

Baskets for Love from Catholic Social Services – Wants to provide baskets for homebound seniors. They wanted to know if a group in the parish would champion this cause and the Youth Ministry has agreed to handle this.

Servers lighting tall candles – Jim Guinta to look into if there is a better process to light the taller candles.

Holy Water in Day Chapel – Can we get Holy Water there?

Trip to The Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Shrine – Jim Guinta is checking on the price of taking a two day trip (a Friday and Saturday) to the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Jim is looking at doing this in January at the earliest or February of 2010. If we get a full bus, 56 people, the bus cost is probably around \$45.00 per person, plus one night's lodging and food. There was some interest and Jim will run this past Father Bob.

Committee Reports – A form was handed out that can be used by different committees to submit their reports prior to the meeting. Whether to use these forms would be optional.