

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
December 17, 2009
7:30 p.m. - Parish Annex

Call to Order/Roll Call

Council members present included: Anita Crowder, Jim Stiegler, Joe Stiles, Lisa Hilliker, Greg Doud, Paul Madix, Lennice Lytle, Dan DeBrosse, Chris Schell, Stefanie McKelvey, and Vicente Santamarina. Patrick Lesher, Chad Drinnen, and Father Larry Tensi were also in attendance. Lorraine Hencheck and Paul Madix were excused absence.

Opening Prayer

Greg Doud offered the opening prayer.

Reading Mission Statement/Purpose

Joe Stiles read the Mission Statement and Vicente Santamarina read the Council Purpose.

Introduction of Youth Representative

Stefanie McKelvey, a graduate of St. Columban School and currently attending Loveland High School, was introduced as the new youth representative to Parish Council.

Review Minutes/Commission Reports

Reviewed and accepted.

Parish Campaign Update - Patrick Lesher

The parish campaign is doing very well and has even brought in more than expected.

Many pledges are being paid off early by donors.

There have been a number of sizable one time donations.

The proposals for the undercroft are in and the Archdiocese is very pleased with the plan of action by the parish and the steps taken to this point.

It was stated that at this point the Parish Campaign has not had a significant impact on the Sunday contributions.

Old Business

Staff Report

Father Larry reported that letters were sent out to parish members urging them to increase their Sunday contributions.

Letters were also sent out to parish members that have made no contributions this past year. It is hoped that this will allow the parish office to determine if names on the parish roster are still active. Another letter will be sent out in June to families that have not contributed to the parish.

Father Larry stated how important the Sunday offerings are and that they are the life line of the parish.

Faith Formation – Dan DeBrosse

There was a meeting October 29th with Sister Ellen Doyle, Scott Mussari and Jim Miller to discuss how to reach goal seven of the Talents Plan.

Four Recommendations were made:

1. call objective B of goal Seven complete
2. continue to have the Vocation Committee look at religious vocations
3. Faith Formation to look at youth, married life, etc.
4. go to an external source to come up with a new team to lead this goal

The real goal is about stewardship - the main focus should be to determine ones spiritual gifts and how to share them within the parish. It is important to tie vocations with stewardship.

The Parish Council needs to decide whether to let go of goal seven of the Talents Plan or whether to give it to new leadership.

It was also discussed if all forms of vocations should be given to an entire new set of eyes to oversee in the parish.

It was recommended to revisit this topic at a future meeting.

Success of “Operation Donut Sunday”

Members of Parish Council recommended to continue having members present during Donut Sunday. They feel it is a good way to connect with the parishioners.

New Business

Discussion of Finance Report on Tuition

Tuition was discussed by Finance Commission at their past two meetings. Consideration for the cost of tuition included Sunday offerings, the number of students, changes and increases in school costs, and a review of various school tuitions in the area.

A recommendation by the Finance Commission for grades 1 - 8 would be an increase of \$200.00 per student with all current discounts from previous years. These discounts included multiple students and those that pay off the tuition at one time.

The current tuition amount is \$2900.00.

Currently the school is in the bottom one third of school tuitions in the area.

A recommendation was made for an increase for Kindergarten of \$100.00 per child for next year. The Kindergarten needs to be self-sufficient. The current Kindergarten tuition is \$2300.00.

Sunday contributions also impact the tuition since part of the Sunday offerings goes toward school costs. In the past few years the amount of assistance to the school has significantly decreased due to the decrease in Sunday contributions and rising parish expenses.

Another factor in the cost of tuition is the cutting of proposed state funds in half in order to prepare for possible future cuts by state funding for education.

It was stated that last year there was a freeze on salaries for this current school year. Finance Commission is trying to keep this from repeating itself for the next school year. This freeze also impacts the benefits of the employees of the parish.

The school staff is now being paid below level 3 of the Archdiocesan salary pay scale for teachers that sets up the percentage of increases. At present it appears that the pay increase for next year will be based on the scale of salary from the Archdiocese, but will not include a cost of living increase as it has in the past.

Until this current school year, the teachers have been on the highest Archdiocesan salary scale. Based on tuition for next year, the teachers will be on the second level of the salary scale.

It was stated that starting next year employees of the parish will pay a higher percentage of their health benefits in order to meet the parish budget. It is important that the teachers' pay increase does not just cover their cost of health care and leave them with no additional funding.

Father Larry has met with the Finance Commission and has been advised on the current financial trend and what the tuition should be for next year.

During the last 6 years the increase for tuition has been by \$200.00 increments. Members questioned if this was really an increase since the amount has not changed over the years.

Finance Commission would like the cost of the tuition to continue to be one of the lowest in the area.

The number of families needing tuition assistance for the new school year is also unknown but expected to be high once again considering the current financial state of many families.

Members of Parish Council recommended that the teachers remain at third level Archdiocesan pay scale like they have been in the past. They do not want the school to lose good teachers or the quality of education to decrease. The biggest factor is where does the money come from to keep the teachers at this level?

A recommendation was made by Parish Council that the tuition be raised more than \$200.00 for the next school year.

Father Larry, Patrick Leshner and the head of Finance Commission will meet to discuss the recommendations from the Parish Council.

Commission Reports

Commission reports were sent out to Parish Council members and reviewed at the meeting. To view these reports please access the commission minutes on the church web page.

Meeting Schedule: Our next meeting is January 28, 2010 in the Parish Annex

Please Note: Agenda items due 2 weeks before the next meeting

January Prayer: Lorraine Hencheck

Adjournment

Closing Prayer: Greg Doud

Respectfully submitted by Chad Drinnen