

Church of Saints Peter and Paul

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

March 25th, 2008

Members Present: Mary Kaye Schneider, Michelle (Shelly) Gulsvig, Jean Turnham, Judy Parmenter, Brian VanBeusekom, and John Grenzer.

Guests: Danny Doboszinski (Finance Council Chair), Ted Turnham.

Guest Reports:

Finance Council: (Danny Doboszinski) Two issues were discussed at the recent FC meeting – first: we have reached a settlement of the parish’s Archdiocesan assessment debt. Over the past few years the FC has been negotiating with the Archdiocese to settle this debt. There had been a disagreement over what the Archdiocese expected our parish to pay. After much back and forth, we made the Archdiocese an offer which was accepted - -- Yeah! The payment has been made and we are now current with the Archdiocese. Second: the FC came to a decision regarding the EAC’s recent proposal. This coming year our parish will strive to maintain the current school program. The idea of implementing a “Multi-Age Classroom” approach will continue to be studied during the coming year; and yet, the “MAC” approach will not be implemented at this time. At this time the FC has authorized one full time teacher per classroom. The FC asks all parents to help improve our school’s enrollment – this is the key to our program. Parents are asked to stay positive and promote our school to get our school back to where it needs to be.

New Church Building Committee: NCBC is on hiatus during this time of transition

Committee Reports:

Building and Maintenance Committee: (John Grenzer) Clean-up day – BMC will try to get a day scheduled before Mother’s Day, weather permitting.

Liturgy Committee: (Judy Parmenter) LC did not meet in March. Chrism Mass was on same scheduled night. // At April meeting LC will be discussing Pentecost, Polka Mass, First Communion, whether or not we should do Holy Spirit Novena. Last year we did 54 day Novena. Perhaps at this time of transition we should do another Novena. // April 27 there will be a polka mass in gym followed by a pancake breakfast.

Social Civic Committee: (Jean Turnham) Pot Luck and Bingo after mass on April 19th after 5pm mass. \$5 fee per person. (This \$ goes for prizes) Please bring dish to share and beverages.

Social Justice Committee: The SJC is once again planning to offer Mother’s Day corsages? This fundraiser supports the pro-life cause.

Fundraising Committee: WinterFest brought in a total of \$26,673.55. Drawing tickets brought in \$16,265, which represents an \$800 increase over last year. Tickets were sent out after Christmas this year with the idea that when sent out before Christmas the tickets get lost in the hustle and bustle of Christmas celebrations. Tickets were sent out just after the first of the year. // We are ahead of last year’s fundraising total. At present we have raised \$48,455 through the Harvest Moon Festival and the WinterFest celebrations. We still have the Dick Weller drawing coming up which brought in \$6000 last year. Also the money from the fundraising envelopes from the collection isn’t included in this number. // FC would like to tentatively set the Harvest Moon Festival for September 27th. Hopefully this will allow for an outdoor mass and festivities without as much risk of cold weather.

Faith Formation Committee: Seder Dinner is next weekend. // Bagging for tips is coming up at end of April at the Buffalo Cub Foods. // Mystagogia celebration for our recent Confirmands is scheduled for April 12th. // Fr. Brian and Allie Spaulding are currently finalizing the new look for our grades 1-11 RE program for next fall. Thanks to all the parents and teachers who gave input on this new approach to the religious formation of both our public and homeschooled children. An announcement will be coming at the end of April.

Education Advisory Committee: (Mary Kaye Schneider) EAC met on March 13th. Danny Doboszinski and Lynn Scholtes presented the recommendation of the Finance Council (approved by Father Brian) that our parish will delay consideration of multi-age classrooms for one year. Our school will have one full time teacher per classroom next year. We need to focus our efforts on maintaining current enrollment as well as marketing our school to increase enrollment. The marketing task force is working on 11,000 post cards to be sent out to Maple Grove zip codes (special thank you to Maureen Clipperton and Lynn Scholtes for spearheading this effort). There are problems within the Maple Grove district and there will be many displaced families who will be looking for alternative schools. Our effort is to target these families with a new post card that Maureen is working on to highlight our school. // The Home and School coordinators have begun planning for the Book Fair as well as the Rummage Sale coming up this spring. We are currently working on changing the dates of the sale to May 8 – 10th, which would coincide with Loretto's city-wide sale, and remove it from the same weekend as First Holy Communion.

Chairperson/ Vice Chair: (Shelly Gulsvig – chairperson) What adult faith formation options can we offer as a parish? This is something that we need to take a look at again. Idea – working with the Jeff Cavins series. This can be done at each group's own pace. This is a phenomenal series. // Nominations for 4 PPC positions will take place the weekends of April 12/13 & 19/20. Please be open to serving our parish!

Pastor: Thank you to the FC and EAC for their continued hard work to both maintain and improve our parish school. Yes, we must all acknowledge the tremendous challenge it is to offer a Catholic grade school as part of our parish program. I commend the decision to continue (for the next year) the current school program of having a fulltime teacher for every grade level. This is a wonderful gift to our community. The challenge our parish family will face is how to improve enrollment. Unfortunately, the days of being able to support an individual class size of under ten children have passed --- for example, recall that awhile back we once had an eighth grade class of only three students. Such small class sizes are no longer feasible. Parish and school leaders must continue to work to improve the school's enrollment.

Overall the parish continues to struggle to meet the current budget needs. A BIG THANKS to those families who have increased their parish giving! And yet, we still seem to be struggling. The pending shortfall has forced us to ask our hourly employees to accept a temporary decrease in their hours. For example, this will mean that the school secretary will only be working four days each week. The secretary's "off" day will be covered by other staff. Granted, this plan will save us money in the short term; and yet, we must acknowledge the strain this will place on our ability to manage our program and the possibility that some of our staff will depart seeking better jobs. I encourage everyone to be patient with our staff. Many of them are being asked to work fewer hours and yet still handle their jobs. Parish leaders will continue to work on the restructuring of our overall parish program for next year. What type of programs do we want? What can we afford to offer?

Finally, I am still in "limbo" as to my continued service to the parish. It looks like my departure will most likely follow the normal transition time of mid June. Right now all of the priests who will be changing assignments are publicly declaring their intentions. My "early" announcement has allowed our Transition Team to get a jump on the transition process. In the coming weeks everyone should be prepared as priests will be visiting our parish (often incognito) to see what type of community we are. I have already received two requests for information. I can proudly say that I strongly recommended our community ---☺--- keep the faith! Keep praying for a new pastor.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 22, 2008.

Please remember, the PPC welcomes all guests to attend these meetings and we encourage your feedback and participation!