

Church of Saints Peter and Paul
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
May 27th, 2008

Members Present: Sharon Hafften, Dorothy Haag, Mary Kaye Schneider, Shelly Gulsvig, Ryan Green, Jean Turnham, Judy Parmenter, John Grenzer, Brian VanBeusekom, Father Brian Fier

Guests: Father John Gallas (our new pastor), Danny Doboszinski (Finance Council Chair), Lynn Scholtes (Parish Business Administrator), Bill Magevas (newly chosen PPC member), Allie Spaulding (Director of Religious Education grades 7-11 and Youth Minister), and Angie Mahoney (MOMS coordinator)

Opening Prayer: Father John Gallas

Father Gallas introduced himself to everyone with a brief overview of his personal history --- growing up in St. Paul, attending the University of St. Thomas, attending seminary at the North American College in Rome, serving in the Minnesota Army National Guard, and serving these past three years as the associate pastor at St. Joseph's Church in West St. Paul. After this he answered some questions. He mentioned that Pope John Paul II was a very formative figure in his priesthood and that one of the highlights of his life was being present in Rome at the end of Pope John Paul II's life. Father Gallas also mentioned that his hobbies are fishing, reading, and enjoying the outdoors. He intends on being very active with the youth. He sees his role as a priest is to lead people to God.

Guests:

Angie Mahoney (coordinator of our Ministry of Mothers Sharing group): MOMS is a national outreach ministry developed by the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery in St. Paul, Minnesota. It is based on the gospel values expressed in the documents of Vatican II. Our parish MOMS group began in 2006. Last summer the MOMS coordinators (Angie Mahoney and Angie Green) hosted a Mini-Retreat ("Dessert with Mary", facilitated by Sr. Paula Hagen) with 37 participants and in the fall there were two book study groups with a total of 16 participants. This summer there will be another Mini-Retreat entitled "Emptying Your Cup" on Monday, August 4th. This will be an evening retreat again facilitated by Sr. Paula Hagen.

The Parish Pastoral Council welcomes Bill Magevas as incoming PPC liaison to the Liturgy Committee. Bill has been a member of our parish since 2003. He has lived and worked in this community for about 16 years. Bill will be meeting with Judy and Shelly in coming weeks to begin familiarizing himself with his new role.

Finance Council: (Danny Doboszinski) The FC has been discussing the parish staffing for next year. We have offered working agreements to our ten fulltime teachers. Now we are deciding on our specials and hourly employee positions for both the parish and school. // The Parish Transition Team met with Father Gallas and is working on interviewing candidates for principal. There are some very good candidates. The PTT will be making a recommendation to Fr. Gallas soon. We hope to have the new principal hired by mid June.

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

Committee Reports:

Building and Maintenance Committee: (John Grenzer) One parishioner has expressed interest in serving as the PPC liaison to the BMC. The PPC discussed how to handle this matter --- see Pastor's comments below. // Parish clean-up day was on May 24th. Work was done on trimming trees around campus. Work was also done on flower beds -- cleaning out the beds, mulching and planting flowers. Thank you to those who made the time to come and help!! // The bid is in for fixing the sidewalks -- this is being paid for through a private donation by a parishioner. The BMC is asked to bring this project to the FC and the parish office for approval.

Liturgy Committee: (Judy Parmenter) We have a new flower resource in Blossom's Floral located in Rockford. Through this source we will have the ability to use our vases and therefore only be charged for the cost of the flowers. We plan to work with them over the summer. // Thanks to Father Brian for all his support for Area Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. We will be celebrating our 10th anniversary this fall. // The flags representing all the local schools' colors will be up this weekend to honor our high school graduates. The graduates will be honored at the 8am mass. // On June 22nd there will be a celebration of Sister Honora Elsen's 70th anniversary of Religious Life as well as her 90th birthday. The LC is working with the Elsen Family to determine our role. All are welcome to the reception!

Social Civic Committee: (Jean Turnham) We are still looking for volunteers to do Coffee and Rolls for the 2008/2009 season. A parishioner has volunteered to pick up the rolls every week, making the job much easier. Karen Schlosser has stepped forward to take over coordinating Coffee and Rolls. Starting in September the KC's will do the third Sunday of the month for Coffee and Rolls. // Cana Dinner/ Reception will be paired up with Winterfest again this coming year.

Social Justice Committee: (Dorothy Haag) SJC sold corsages for Mother's Day. This year all corsages were sold leading to a \$130 profit. Proceeds will go to support pro-life work. // We will be working on lining up a speaker for September. The SJC will be contacting our new pastor on this matter.

Fundraising Committee: (Ryan Green) The FRC discussed its year-end report. For the Harvest Moon Festival --- the Auctions (both live and silent) were a big success. For next year we need to make Cowabunga Bingo the pivotal event. There will not be Spooky Bingo next year – need something fresh. For Winterfest – drawing tickets has become stagnant. FC is looking at the possibility of changing this up for next year. We had great sponsorship this year; also the Cana Dinner was a good addition. The Carnival is one of the staples of Winterfest– very popular kid's event.

Faith Formation Committee: (Sharon Hafften) The High School Graduation Mass is on June 1st at 8am. // RE is done for the year. Thank you to all teachers and office staff!! // Applications for the Youth Leadership Team are due by June 8th. This is open to all 7th – 11th graders. // Recently a letter went out to all parishioners explaining the changes to our Faith Formation program. We have had great feedback so far. Some volunteer teachers have been stepping forward but we still need more. We also need a volunteer to help keep our youth ministry going strong. We don't want to fall backward on this.

Education Committee: (Mary Kaye Schneider) Update on Task forces: **Lunch Program Task Force** recently put out a survey for school families. The task force plans to use the survey results to improve the lunch program participation. **School Structure Task Force** has completed its work. **Marketing Task Force** has been meeting monthly. Current efforts include creating T-shirts for graduating class (winner chosen from submitted designs by 8th graders-the KC's have generously offered to make this a gift to the graduating class), Becky Trujillo is organizing our school's participation in the Hamel Parade, Cheryl Kliszcz volunteered to be our PR contact person – getting info into local papers about our students/school, the committee is calling current school families who haven't registered yet. // Angie Mahoney has agreed to continue as EAC Chairperson for next year. We have put out an invitation to all school families to join the EAC. // We had a very successful **Rummage Sale** this month. We brought in \$4500. Thank you to all who made this possible – both school parents and parishioners!! A special thank you to the Loretto Quilters who donated all of their sales – \$655.

Chairperson (Shelly Gulsvig) The PPC needs to continue with summer meetings. June and July for sure – we can see what Father Gallas wants to do about the August Retreat. Dorothy will bring prayers and treats for the June meeting and Mary Kaye will bring prayers and treats for July.

Pastor: Fr. Brian expressed disappointment that we did not have the required number of candidates step forward so that we could hold PPC elections for the liaison positions to the Building & Maintenance Committee and the Fund Raising Committee. PPC bi-laws require that at least two qualified parishioners offer to serve in each of these positions in order for us to “draw lots” and elect new PPC members. The pastor is allowed to appoint one PPC member each year – note, Fr. Brian has already utilized this option for this year by appointing Sharon Hafften to serve one more year as the FFC liaison to the PPC. Even though one parishioner did express interest in the BMC position, the election cannot take place with only one candidate. In the interim period between pastors the PPC could invite this parishioner to serve as the chairperson of the BMC. Fr. Brian also encouraged the PPC to be patient in resolving this matter. Our new pastor should be included in this decision, especially if the PPC is considering changing its bi-laws. // Good candidates have come forward for the principal position. The PTT and Fr. Gallas should have the hiring completed by mid June. A BIG THANKS goes out to our retiring principal, Mrs. Diane Beutz, for all her good work these past years. // Finally, Fr. Brian encouraged the parish to be patient with our new pastor. Please give him time to adjust to his new role. We are blessed with many good ministries and great people in our parish. Together we have and will continue to do the Lord's work. Keep working on the communication within the parish and the respect for each others' roles.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 24th, 2008. Committee meetings from 6:00-7:00 pm, PPC meeting 7:00-?

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