Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

Wednesday, November 9, 2011; 7:00 p.m.
In Attendance: Patty Bond, Michael Case, Fr. Leo Connolly, Bob Davis, Pat DeVoss, David Gahn, Mary Gibbons, Kyle Kowaleski, Jim Martin, Mark O'Loughlin, Camille Rea, Michelle Spohn.

Fr. Leo opened with a prayer.

Camille Rea, Youth Liaison, spoke first so that she could go to choir praxtice**.** At the initial EDGE session, about 45 participants in 6th through 8th graders attended. The Life teen event had 11. Upcoming are EDGE, November 12 and Life Teen, Nov.19.

Fr. Leo's remarks – At the request of Kathy Maggied, the RCIA Program will be moved on the flow chart from the liturgical to the educational place. A request was made for Carlene Hamilton to function as a secretary for the meetings.
It is a concern that we may have too many fundraisers being conducted through the various groups (parish, school, etc). If we are targeting the same people for contributions, it may be that we need to drop some of the smaller fundraisers.
Financial issues

- *Parish Festival*: At the wrap up meeting, it was discussed that the good weather resulted in the majority of the booths having a better return that in the two previous years. We have most of the chair people for the 012 festival. Troy Herron will be co-chair with Mike Lotz. We DO need someone for the Monte Carlo.
- *Facilities Management Board & Finance Committee* joint sessions: We have received finalized estimates for the roof repair of the Parish Center (flat area over gym, restrooms) – this work needs to be done yet this year. These will be sent to the downtown offices for approval. The estimate is approximately $18,000.
- Fr. Leo met with Bill Davis from the diocesan Finance Office, and Bishop Campbell regarding the deficit for the year as well as our capital expenditure needs.
- We have also met with Pat Davis, the diocesan Supervisor of Buildings, concerning upcoming needs. These include:
  1) replacing the entire roof of the school building; cost approximately $200,000.
  2) Fixing the leak discovered in the church sanctuary area at the Liturgical Ministers' Night on October 19th
  3) The HVAC units were likely designed for 400 people, but 600-700 is a more realistic number of attendees. Also, the life expectancy of the system is about 15 years and most of the units are about 20 years old now.
  4) Another pressing matter is a box in the school for the boiler system.
- For advice as we prioritize the needs, we will get assistance from the diocesan Development Office. They will help with a feasibility study for a capital campaign. In addition to items mention ed above, the east wall of the rectory is bowed and there are some concrete issues, including the lack of drainage on the walkways to the school. The gym roof is the imperative need at this time. For a capital campaign, a goal of $750,000 is possible. The campaign is made difficult since we will not have any new building to highlight; rather the goal would be to help what we already have in terms of structures.
- Pat DeVoss inquired if we could conduct a capital campaign at the same time as the BAA; this is done in some other parishes. Fr. Replied that is usually done with an extended pledge time (5 years) with the monies collected over the Baa amount coming back to the parish. The feasibility study would let us know a method of raising money. We would pay the diocese for the study, but it would be less than outside financial groups charge.

- Following the talk given by Karry Ellis, a report for the fiscal year of 2010-2011 is underway. The Finance Committee will meet on November 10th. One member has proposed an across-the-board cut in the budget, except where we are contractually obligated. We are proactively trying to address this.

Other Issues & Input from Group Liaisons

Membership -The October Mass count was down about 4% from last year's numbers. Both diocesan-wide and nationally, Catholic School enrollments are down. Our school, however, has increased numbers from the previous year.

The *Knights of Columbus (Mark O)* will present Fish Fries on Fridays, November 11 and 18. Hours will be the same as for the Lenten ones. Several people had suggested more fish fries.

Welcoming Committee (Mary G)– Mary Gibbons is looking into how we can improve the process of getting newly-registered people involved quickly in our programs. The new parisoner ackets will be personalized. For example, families will receive information on the preschool, school, PSr if they have children; etc. Also in the works in personally contacting new families.

St. Vincent de Paul Society (David G)– The goal this year for the Christmas food Baskets is 150. The food truck will come on Tuesday December 13. The "adopt a turkey" campaign in the church raised $4,798. The baskets will be made up on Friday, Dec. 16 and the deliveries will be on Saturday, Dec. 17. Mike Cunningham is working on getting the drivers.
One reason we request donations of items such as toilet paper and deodorants, shampoo, etc. in announcements for the Food Pantry is neither food stamps nor the MidOhio Food Bank had those things available. The Friends of the homeless will be conducting their personal care item solicitation in December again this year. In January, we will have the coat and candle campaign. This year, the foodstuffs collected by the preschool came to us; in previous years, it was sent to St. Mary Magdalene.

Deanery (Pat D)– The group is currently meeting every other month, with the next session scheduled for November 22.

Giving Tree (Michael C) – the trees will be up by Friday, November 18. The ornaments and wish lists are already on hand. This year, in addition to the label with the item requested, a smaller label with the due date (Dec 4) will be on each ornament.

Spiritual Life (Fr. Leo) Tony Stout is gathering names and information on possible parish mission. In his former parish, they conducted one about every second year.

SCRIP Program (Patty B) – From January through October 2011, we had approximately $298,000 in sales with $286,000 paid out. The parish and various charities received about $12,000. Going back three years, about $69,000 has come to us through the program. The majority of the monies raised has been used by families for their school tuition accounts.

Agenda Items

Parish manuals – We are looking into whether there are any written, or just traditional, policies and procedures. We DO have a few, such as for marriages, but many other things are not currently covered by any written item. So although we have a contract for renting out the parish center, we do not have one stipulating to whom we would rent What if someone wants to hold a sale in the church area – in the past , some groups did that on a regular basis while others were not permitted to do so.
Concerning our wedding policy, some issues have arisen and we need some clarification from the chancery

on them (for example, another priest brought up the question that if a couple does not get married here, do we allow them to rent the hall?). There are some new guidelines from the diocese, such as a priest cannot deny marriage to a couple even if neither is a member of the parish.
So, we are working to identify which areas needs to have a parish policy; if there has been an oral tradition or any other past procedure. Currently, the marriage guidelines and rental contracts are under review for revision.

Use of the Gathering Space – during October, which is Respect Life month, the Knights of Columbus promoted a Baby Bottle campaign for the first year here. The monies raised do not go to the same group that our parish respect Life group collects layette items for in January. Also, the person who asked permission for the bottle campaign assumed that approval meant that needed signs and set up; bulletin announcements; placement on the calendar, and so on would ensue with no further effort on the group's part. Another sticky point is when multiple groups are expecting to have their table or display on the same dates, leading to congestion and/or confusion.

Christmas Mass Schedule – we will use the same Mass times as last year, partly because of already having the Mass changes with the new translation of the Roman missal. The "names" of the Masses are different in the new books – There is no "Mass at Midnight" (due partly to many parishes having an earlier start time). Names are Vigil Mass; Mass at Night; Mass at Dawn, and Mass during the Day.
Although it was discussed changing some of the times for our Masses, the music program (choirs, etc.) have already been allocated to the same times as past years. So we will have Christmas Eve Masses at 5:00 p.m.; 8:00 .m., Midnight; plus a Christmas day Mass at 9 a.m.

Reinvigorating Parish Community – programs that are designed for fallen-away Catholics, such as "Coming Home" and "Re-Membering" are under consideration.

Parish Council Minutes – it is desirable that these be produced within a week of the meetings and sent out so that they can be corrected and then posted on the parish website sooner. Also discussed was publishing the minutes in the parish newsletter; having copies in the Gathering Space. Father would like the parish newsletter to be more than just a repeat of articles found in the Sunday bulletins. Part of publication is to make more visible that we DO have a council, with open meetings. Marcy Gifford does post our minutes, once approved and transmitted to her, on the parish website.

Old Business/New Business – One item proposed for discussion on a future PPC agenda is having a representative of the PPC, on behalf of the parish, at Baptisms held here. At the school Mass on November 1st, two children from the school were Baptized and one received First Communion. Feedback from that was very positive. For many of the children, it may have been the first Baptism they witnessed. We may offer a choice of having Baptisms take place during a Mass as opposed to after the noon liturgy. When Fr. Leo was at St. Nicholas Parish, Baptisms were held during Masses, with the time different each month.

Next PPC Meeting will be January 4; we do not typically meet in December.

Fr. Leo led the closing prayer.

Notes by Kyle Kowaleski