

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION/ACTIONS
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
September 4, 2013**

The parish will not participate in B.R.E.A.D. since the St. Vincent dePaul Society at the national level is pursuing a different perspective on its programs—a more hands-on type of work with individuals—which could address the same social issues.

A parish directory will be published in the spring of 2014.

The Ice Cream Social on the Feast of the Assumption went well even though there were fewer people attending than last year.

The 2012-2013 officers were re-elected: Michael Case, chairperson; Mary Gibbons, vice-chairperson; Carlene Hamilton, secretary.

It was noted that the terms of most of the Council members expire in June 2014 (Patty Bond, Michael Case, Bob Davis, Pat DeVoss, Mary Gibbons, Carlene Hamilton, Kyle Kowaleski, Michael Lotz, as well as the one-year term of Julia Hall, youth member). The term of Steve Brezny expires June 2016. Those representing parish groups serve at the pleasure of the group (currently, David Gahn, St. Vincent dePaul Society; Cindy Miracle, School Advisory Board; and Mark O'Loughlin Knights of Columbus). Bob Kapala has a job conflict on the meeting nights so another person will be appointed as representative of the Athletic Association.

The 20th anniversary of the dedication of the present church and Parish Life Center falls on Thursday, January 30, 2014, and whether or not or how to recognize this occasion was tabled until the next meeting. Some other observances to be considered are: The Feast of St. Cecilia, November 22 (school Mass and wreath laying) is also the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; the All Souls Day Mass and reception since November 2 is on Saturday so another date or format might be needed. Father will discuss these matters with the Finance and Liturgy Committees.

Michael Case said organizations are being contacted for names and gift suggestions for the Giving Tree. Since many groups collect items for children, consideration is being given to assisting parish families.

Father distributed copies of the book, *rebuilt*, by Michael White and Tom Corcoran. It is the story of a parish in the Archdiocese of Baltimore and is a concrete example of a Catholic parish that took the challenges of today's Church seriously. Council members will undertake discussion of this book.

The written report from Religious Education stated that due to low enrollment, Monday night sessions for grades one through six have been eliminated. Grades seven and eight are still large enough to have two sessions, albeit Monday night class rosters are still very small. The *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* program will be offered for Preschool and Kindergarten children. Three potential candidates attended the RCIA information session on August 28. The RCIA Team of about 14 people will help to facilitate the program through teaching, hospitality, assisting sponsors, and leading sessions of Breaking Open the Word. Children's Liturgy of the Word will resume on Sunday, September 8; children's liturgy is celebrated each Sunday during the 9:30 am Mass. The Bible Study programs offered here at St. Cecilia for the past three years have been greatly received: this year, two sessions on the book of Revelation as well as the Gospel of Matthew for the second time.

Activity of the St. Vincent dePaul Society coming up includes the Friends of the Poor Walk on September 28, with recruitment tables in the Gathering Space on September 14-15 and 21-22; Fifth Sunday collection on September 29, and Adopt-a-turkey on all weekends in October. Steve Brezny has organized a "Team St. Cecilia" for the Friends of the Poor Walk; sign-ups are available on the Friends of the Poor web site.

The West Deanery report noted a change in principal at Our Lady of Perpetual Help school: Julie Hippler Freeman, principal pro tem, and Kathy Dematteo Grundy, part-time assistant principal.

As of September 4, \$94,018 had been pledged for the Bishop's Annual Appeal, short \$4,338.24 of the parish's goal of \$98,356.24. Contributions from parishioners until April 2014 will be counted toward this year's goal. The Finance Committee might be able to add something about BAA to the parish's annual financial report.

Michael Lotz' written report stated that attendance and fund raising at the Festival was up.

The air-conditioning has been installed and a donation will support the security system.

CORE (the group for the youth ministry) has held a series of meetings recently to develop a strategy for the youth ministry. Several students participated in the Catholic Summer Youth Camp and Gospel Road this summer; some have been attending weekday Masses as a result of the enthusiasm generated by their experience.

Enrollment numbers are down in both the school and PSR. The overwhelming majority of PSR students are in the sixth grade and classes for some grades will be held only on Sundays.

The financial report on the festival is underway. Father is not aware of staff problems for the booths.

Bingo attendance and income varies, with some nights doing well and others not. Attendance has reduced from 200 to about 100-130 per night. There is an ongoing struggle for bingo workers.

Fr. Colopy is assisting at both St. Cecilia and Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishes. He will celebrate one of the Masses on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as well as assigned weekend Masses at St. Cecilia.

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be **Wednesday, October 2, 2013.**