

## **Pastoral Council Meeting - November 18, 2009**

**Members Present:** Fr. Mike, Stewart Toney, Cheryl Walther, Chuck Hess, Larry Schmelz, Joe Wuerth, Kevin Boone, Beth Ann Henry and Christine Myrick.

**Representative Present:** Faith Formation Commission – Eric Schcokling.

Joe Wuerth opened the meeting with a prayer.

October 21, 2009 minutes were reviewed and approved with one correction. Michelle Fessel was not present at the September meeting.

**Report from Faith Formation Commission:** Eric reported the Faith Formation classes were going well. A VIRTUS training was held at St. Mary's last month with 16 people participating. Michelle is looking at possibly implementing a mentoring program for high school youth next year. Presently there are six adults beginning the RCIA program and 2 families in the RCIC program. A kick-off date of December 6<sup>th</sup> is set for the Catholic Bookstore in the school hallway. There is a Parish retreat planned for February 28 – March 2, 2010. Vickie Sizemore, was volunteered to join the Faith Formation Commission, which once again fills the commission. Angela Cahoon was elected Vice President of the commission.

**Report from Finance Committee:** Barry Geswein was absent, Father Mike reported on several items the Finance Committee is working on including the roof repair for the school.

**Report from Building and Grounds:** Father Mike also reported for the Buildings and Grounds Commission in Walter West's absence. He reported the committee is working on the school hallway railing. The committee was concerned about using the expanded metal to cover the opening. Issues of small kids getting their fingers caught in the corners of the metal was a concern. Instead they are recommending using extra piping to put between the existing pipes. The committee is also working on the handrails in the church. Father reported how nice the rails are going to look in the church; which should be installed within couple of weeks. Father also reported the carpet in the Parish Office basement has been removed and the floor sealed.

**Report from Youth Commission:** Leigh Ann was not present because she was getting ready to leave for the NCYC; National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City. Father reported our parish has 24 youth attending the conference. Father felt this was a direct result of Leigh Ann's efforts and commitment. The Youth Turkey Drive was a huge success. They plan to distribute 10-12 food baskets. Again the positive energy Leigh Ann brings to the parish was noted and commended.

### **Old Business:**

Update on the new office assistant, Janet Philpot:. Fr. Mike reported Janet will work on Tuesday and Friday to help cover the office. He commented that Janet will be an excellent resource and addition to the staff .

Father discussed the new phone system proposal. Janet Philpot gave a presentation for a new Verizon phone system. Under the proposal, the parish would pay only slightly more for the new

service than we are currently paying. There would be a capital outlay to purchase some of the equipment.

Larry Schmelz reported on the Bulletin sub-committee. Larry reported the parish had signed an agreement with LPI, Liturgical Publications, Inc. The agreement is for a five page, two color, weekly bulletin. The new bulletin will begin the first Sunday in February 2010. Janet Philpot will handle this task when it gets set up with the new bulletin deadline being Tuesday at noon. A discussion was held on designing the front cover of the bulletin.

Ministry Scheduling Program Update – Fr. Mike reported the parish has purchased the new software. Janet Philpot will also be in charge of this new system. We will need to update the individual ministry preferences for the system to ensure we have the correct information. The scheduling will be done by each month rather than a three month interval.

Liturgy Committee - Fr. Mike reported the committee is reviewing the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM); learning and gaining a greater understanding of the Mass. The committee is looking at upcoming Advent events and hosting a Ministry Fair in January.

Food Pantry Box – Kevin Boone reported the “new” food container box was complete. It will be placed in the vestibule of the church. Kevin did a fantastic job refurbishing the box to make it functional. A discussion was held about also creating a similar box for the front church entrance door also.

#### **New Business:**

Cemetery Policy: The Pastoral Council reviewed the notes Joe Wuerth collected from discussions with Maurice Geswein. After some discussion, the council recommended referring this issue to an ad hoc committee. Marilyn made a motion to refer this issue to a sub-committee. The ad hoc committee members will be: Eric Schockling, Larry Schmelz, Beth Ann Henry, Joe Wuerth and Cheryl Walther.

Future Vision for our Parish: Joe noted this discussion had been on the agenda for several months, but because of time constraints, had not been discussed yet. This discussion will be useful for planning purposes. A discussion was held about the probability of needing additional property. Naturally, the priest shortage will continue to pressure parishes to react and plan. Fr. Mike mentioned the diaconate program will help with parish administrative tasks along with limited religious roles. Eric Schockling reminded the council there was a vision statement completed during the Legacy of Our Mission campaign several years ago. Eric suggested the council again review this document as a possible starting point for this discussion. The bottom line is the parish will need to begin preparing for maintaining the parish without a priest in the future.

Meeting Time Change: Larry discussed the possibility of starting the meeting earlier. After discussion, a new starting time for future meetings will be 6:30 p.m. A discussion was also held about ways to move through routine portions of the meeting quicker; especially the committee reports. A possible solution may be to have all the committees submit written minutes before the council meeting and then only discuss items or points as needed.

**Next Meeting - December 16, 2009 - 6:30 p.m.**