

**St. Mary's Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes: November 3, 2011
7:00 pm, Parish Library**

Present:

Anne Bleistine
John Blowers
Brian Eltz
Fr. Leo Goodman
Chris Masterson
John O'Brien Heather O'Brien
Alan Pawlikowski

Steve Sacco
Terry Warco
Mathew Weitzel
Fran Sescilla
Anne Barnes
Joe Clupp

Excused:

Marilyn D'Andrea-Spica
Don Peris
Rick Poillon
Sharon Walker

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order by Terry Warco at 7:05. There was a scriptural reading of Matthew 25:1-13, followed by open discussion of the Liturgical Question of the Week: "Does the singing of the Sanctus, the "Holy, Holy, Holy", help me to set aside the distractions of my day in order to enter into the celebration of the Eucharist with an open mind and heart?"

Approval of Minutes:

At this time minutes from the October 6th meeting were reviewed. Steve Sacco made a motion, seconded by Joe Clupp, to approve the October 6th meeting minutes. After a chance for all to be heard, this motion was unanimously passed by the council.

Chair Remarks:

At this time Terry Warco reminded council members to feed agenda items to himself or John Blowers two to three weeks in advance so Terry can get the agenda out one week prior to the next meeting. Terry then reviewed all members excused from tonight's meeting.

Mission Reports:

Pastoral – report submitted.

Father Leo stated that in regards to the shortage of chairs noted in the hospitality report, chairs are being ordered to take care of this problem.

Education – report submitted.

No concerns were addressed.

Evangelization – no report submitted.

No concerns were addressed.

Ecumenism –no report submitted.

No concerns were addressed.

Social Justice and Welfare – report submitted.

No concerns were addressed.

Liturgy – report submitted.

Terry Warco reviewed this report in Don Peris' absence, stating that they are having problems with the airing of the Mass on Comcast (including missed airings, static, blank time, and late airings) and that Comcast is asking the parish to have someone drop off the recording just before it is ready to air so it is not missed on Sundays. Terry stated that they are only contracted to air it on Mondays, though.

Family Life - report submitted.

Terry Warco asked Joe Clupp to comment on the marriage enrichment program. Joe stated that the program "A Marriage Made for Heaven" will be monthly meetings for couples, to start in January, and will run approximately an hour and a half, probably after the Saturday evening Mass. He stated the marriage enrichment team is putting together the final details for the program.

Finance – report submitted.

Comments were deferred to John Blowers update later in the meeting.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. Leo stated that there are 27 people along with his parents are heading to the Holy Land for a pilgrimage on Monday. Father Moluski will be covering masses until their return. Fr. Leo said that he would try to upload pictures and commentaries to Facebook to share with the parish.

Old Business:

Finance Update:

At this time John Blowers reviewed the finance report with members of the parish council. He pointed out that attendance is down, though there is no clear answer for this decline. There was brief discussion on possible causes for this including the parking garage situation, changing demographics, the economy, etc. Joe Clupp shared attendance numbers from previous years to offer further insight on the decline and when it started to occur. John Blowers also noted that the cost to maintain the property has increased, and that the Building and Grounds Committee will need to budget for this each year. He then stated that the ordinary income has been flat over the years, probably because of the economic recession. Finally he stated that Tina Skubon has been doing a superb job of balancing the parish's budget. Father Leo stated that we are doing well as a parish in comparison to others in the diocese, and that the Finance Council will prepare a summary paragraph for the bulletin with reference to the website for more details. Ann Barnes stated that she would like to see a full report in the bulletin, and Father Leo replied that there will be a handout in the back of the church with an announcement made at Mass. John Blowers said he would take the feedback back to the Finance Council when they meet in January.

Action Committee Breakout:

At this time council members broke into their respective subcommittees for further discussion of goals and ideas for 2011/2012. After the council reconvened, Terry Warco stated that the subcommittee heads will report on their discussion and progress at the December meeting.

Campus Plans:

Terry Warco stated that the town hall meetings to discuss campus plans with the parish will be held November 19th and 20th. He asked council members to stay for the meetings after Mass and to wear their name tags in case parishioners had questions or feedback.

Anne Barnes asked if a driveway could be designed to allow for parishioners to be dropped off in front of the church. Terry replied that there will be a loop in front of the rectory to allow two lanes and for turn a turn around, though this might create a lot of traffic in front of the church for Masses. Matthew Weitzel asked if both plans for the campus could be combined and Terry replied that the city of Lancaster is very hesitant in recognizing plan A.

After this discussion Terry stated he would take these comments and feedback back to the Preservation and Development Committee at their next meeting.

New Business:

LCBC/Worship Center:

Father Leo discussed LCBC in comparison to St. Mary's, stating that we are offering something totally different and need to think if we really want to be competitive. He then referred to the article sent out by John Blowers. He stated that theologically the Catholic Church has so much to offer and that people who truly love scripture will be attracted to Catholicism. Council members discussed their feelings and opinions towards LCBC and what could be drawing people to that worship center and why they would so easily leave the Catholic Church. Comments were made about trying to put more emphasis on teachings of the church and the Eucharist especially for younger generations, being more welcoming and creating a personal invitation to bring someone back to the church, and needing to better show how Catholicism makes a difference in your life.

Water Street Mission:

Father Leo met with leadership at the Water Street Rescue Mission and reported that they are ready for St. Mary's to enter into a role of supporting them. He stated that he would like to support them but they do not accept us as a participating church and that we were not an accepted church for their mentoring program in the past. There are shared interests between our parish and the rescue mission, though, including: prison outreach, medical outreach, and help for the homeless. Council members expressed their concerns and ideas, stating that this would be a good opportunity to bring theology to them and that perhaps the parish can speak with other churches that have provided mentoring services to see what we could expect. There was a general consensus from the council to further pursue this idea and continue with dialog.

Acknowledgements:

Terry Warco thanked council members for their participation, mission heads for their reports, and John Blowers for the finance update. He then stated that Rick Poillon's daughter was inducted into the National Honors Society. John Blowers stated that he was thrilled to see LCBC on the agenda for discussion. Terry Warco stated that at the December meeting he will have the yearly calendar for council members to review.

At 9:25pm a motion was made by Alan Pawlikowski, seconded by Chris Masterson, to adjourn the meeting. This motion was unanimously passed by the council. Father Leo closed the meeting with a prayer.