

St. Maria Goretti Pastoral Council Meeting  
March 23, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kathy Grzybowski, Chair. Mark Shapleigh led the opening prayer.

Present: Fr. Mike, Kathy Grzybowski, Mark Shapleigh, Frank Peregrine, Kevin Streetar, Shannon Kramer, Jim Shunk, Ken Brown, Deacon Dick, Deacon Jerome, Tim Endres, Mike O'Leary, and Susan Wilke. Absent: Fr. David, Bob Bruni, Peter Mortenson, Mary Jean Patterson, Linda Eckstein, Eugene Mortenson, and John McClure.

**February 23, 2010 Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of the February 23, 2010 meeting were approved.

**Reports by Commissions on their Strategic Plan Progress** – Education Commission is reporting tonight.

Ken Brown and Jim Shunk reported on the Commission's progress toward meeting Plan objectives. In general, it was acknowledged that Commission goals were not discreet, one-time objectives, but rather were a continuum of ongoing activities from month-to-month and year-to-year. In addition, the vast majority of Education activities are organized and managed by our talented staff and do not require active management by the Commission. Rather, the Commission serves to review activities and to provide oversight to help ensure that our parish's mission is being met at all levels of education.

**Education Commission Report**

Ken Brown provided several updates. We are in our last quarter of the school year. Enrollment for the next school year has begun; enrollment is steady, and we may have a slight increase. The budget for next year is under development, and looks to be done around the end of March. Spring break begins on next Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Regarding Religious Education: Tenebrae, a Good Friday prayer service, will occur April 2<sup>nd</sup>. First communion is scheduled for the weekends of April 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>. Regarding Adult Faith Formation (AFF): "What We Believe" continues with its video series into April. There will be a wrap-up session on April 18<sup>th</sup>, including deserts and snacks, comments from each group, and questions to be answered by panelists including Fr. Mike and Fr. David.

**Parish Life Commission Report**

Shannon Kramer reported on Parish Life activities. The next fish fry is coming up on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Movie night was held the preceding weekend with success -- Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs was shown. The events calendar for the parish for the 2010/2011 year will be put together in the next month. A potential volunteer recognition party may be put on the calendar. Sports night will be put onto an every-other-year rotation, and will not be held this year. Goretifest is in the planning stages; a band/entertainment is being sought, and anyone with ideas or contacts is encouraged to come forward. August 16<sup>th</sup> is the date set for the golf outing at Hawk's Landing.

**Worship and Prayer Commission Report**

Worship and Prayer Commission did not report tonight.

**Vocations Commission Report**

Mark Shapleigh reported that a world day of prayer for Vocations is forthcoming. There will be a table following Masses on the weekend of April 24-25. Fr. David will work with Sr. Denise on an array of materials we can have available at the table. We are moving ahead with the pocket rosaries for distribution and need to determine a vendor and get them ordered. Fr. David will coordinate having a sign-up opportunity for the Traveling Chalice and case available that weekend to be featured at the table when it is staffed. We will look at the prayer card supply from last year. Other ideas for the youngsters were brought up, including coloring books. Regarding future potential projects: A perforated, tear-out piece in the bulletin with a feature on a seminarian or religious remains a possibility, as is a scavenger hunt for youngsters involving the SMG Vocations Commission website.

**Stewardship Commission Report**

Tim Endres reported that Stewardship is concerned about getting new members involved and active in the church. There are two areas under which concepts are being explored: 1) trying to take the new member group, and invite them to some kind of social event and 2) having personal contact to reinforce our welcoming message after some months of being a member. The challenge will be developing a program that could complement our evangelization efforts and Parish Life activities.

### **Human Concerns/Social Justice Commission Report**

Kevin Streetar provided information on Commission activities. The Evangelization Workshop has stimulated some ideas for the Commission to convene in a more social setting, possibly with food. Other recent or upcoming activities include Forty Days of Life and 40 hours of Eucharistic Adoration. The recent St. Vincent DePaul food drive yielded 2,700 pounds of food and around \$900 in monetary donations.

**Trustee Updates** – Kathy Grzybowski provided the following updates:

- Mike O’Leary’s term ends June 30, 2010
- Susan Wilke’s term continues through June 30, 2011
- Candidates for the position of trustee will be presented on ballots prepared for distribution during an upcoming Mass.

**Pastoral Council Updates** - Kathy Grzybowski provided the following updates:

Council member terms ending June 30, 2010 are:

- Appointees: Bob Bruni, Linda Eckstein, Jim Shunk
- Three-Year Terms: Eugene Mortensen, Peter Mortenson, Mary Jean Patterson

Nominations forms will be available for parishioners in the upcoming weeks. Current Parish Council Members should be available to answer questions, and are encouraged to nominate at least one parish member.

Continuing Terms:

- 2011 Members: Kathy Grzybowski, Shannon Kramer, Kevin Streetar
- 2012 Members: Ken Brown, Frank Peregrine, Mark Shapleigh

Tim Endres provided a schedule for soliciting nominees, meeting with them and discernment as follows:

- May 18 – Parish Council nominee discernment
- June 15 – Parish Council meeting and discernment of officers
- May 15-16 is a likely date for election of Trustees.

### **Evangelization Update**

Kathy Grzybowski thanked everyone for making the Evangelization Workshop such a success. The Evangelization Committee will continue to exist to keep the momentum going strong, and to interact with various commissions to continue their involvement in evangelization efforts. Kathy compiled the results of the feedback that was submitted by everyone, and her daughter-in-law recorded minutes. The feedback was discussed. Some of the ideas that stemmed from Commission meetings in conjunction with the workshop include: 1) how to improve volunteerism and our reaching out to more parishioners, 2) possibly restructuring of some of the commissions, such as splitting out AFF from Education, as school-age Education does not require to same level of oversight because of the self-sufficiency of the school. A lot of ideas surfaced pertaining to ways to get people involved, even in the face of the size and vastness of the volunteer opportunities which can be overwhelming to new parishioners. Fr. Mike commented that the link between the liturgy and “parish life” is extremely important to keep in mind and maintain.

### **Pastor’s Report**

Fr. Mike Burke

Fr. Mike commented on a number of issues affecting the parish, including:

- He thanked Kathy for her exceptional efforts in assembling the Evangelization Workshop (to which the other members applauded).
- He and Fr. David were humbled and appreciative of the Year of the Priests celebration held during the preceding weekend.
- We are 2.26% ahead of last year’s offertory collection, and around 7% ahead in terms of cash on hand, due in part to the conservative approach to spending with the uncertainty of the economy. There are a number of employees, including many teachers, who have not received a raise during our cost containment, yet who seem to be working harder than ever. Although there continues to be many uncertainties, including health care costs, bussing and other matters, the issue of pay raises will be revisited.
- There are a number of priests who may or will be retiring in the near future, potentially putting pressure on personnel required to keep all of our parishes going at full strength.
- The Chrism Mass for all diocesan priests with Bishop Morlino is next Tuesday here at St. Maria Goretti.
- The Annual Catholic Appeal solicitations were performed at Masses, and our participation appears to be strong.

The next meeting will be held on April 20, 2010.

### **Closing Prayer**

Fr. Mike Burke