

St. Maria Goretti Pastoral Council Meeting  
August 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Kathy Grzybowski led the opening prayer.

Present: Fr. Mike, Kathy Grzybowski, Mark Shapleigh, Frank Peregrine, Bob Bruni, Linda Eckstein, Eugene Mortensen, Mary Jean Patterson, Shannon Kramer, Kevin Streetar, Ken Brown, Peter Mortenson, Deacon Dick, Tim Endres, Mike O'Leary, Susan Wilke, and Seminarians Dave Carrano and Vince Brewer.

Absent: Jim Shunk, Fr. David, Deacon Jerome

**Introductory Comments**

Fr. Mike

Fr. Mike welcomed new members Linda Eckstein, Frank Peregrine and Jim Shunk, and thanked the executive committee members. He then shared his 2009-2010 vision for Council, including:

- Evangelization – being “welcoming” to new members, encouraging inactive members to return, and seeking the involvement of parish leaders to help multiply our efforts across a broader range of people
- Build our strategic plan and planning for the future
- Eucharistic Liturgy and Sacraments
- Vocations – especially with the shortage of priests with many retiring
- Pastoral care and homebound
- Monitor closely finances and stewardship
- Communication and Parish website

Fr. Mike also shared some thoughts about possible Commissions restructuring that would be more closely aligned with the key strategic initiatives identified by him, although it was acknowledged that our current Commissions are already close to the mark as they stand today.

**June 2009 Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of the June 9, 2009 meeting were approved.

**Administrative**

Council chair Kathy Grzybowski had members review and update their contact information, sign up as Commission liaison and sign up for snack duty for future Council meeting. There was an open question and answer session for new members.

**SMG Strategic Plan Update**

Mark Shapleigh and Kevin Streetar

Mark Shapleigh and Kevin Streetar discussed the task of reviewing and updating the SMG Strategic Plan, beginning with familiarization of the current plan. Each of the Commissions will be asked to report on their progress and concerns in attaining the goals of the Plan, as well as identify opportunities for the future. It was suggested by Mark and Kevin that the Strategic Plan might become a document that gets updated with regularity, and not just every 5 years. In this way, the Commissions would be asked to be more forward-looking, and more participative in setting the goals. A set of questions could be used to prompt the Commissions to think critically about their role and accomplishments. It is also possible that the Commission structure might be altered to conform to a Plan that will migrate over time. For now, the Commissions will be kept as they are today, but consideration will be given to restructuring the Commissions possibly later this year.

**Commission Report (liaisons based on prior year)**

**Education**

Fr. Mike reported that 419 children were in attendance on the first day of school. 60 more will be starting next week for pre-school. School capacity is 520, so we are very close to full. Ken Brown indicated that Deacons Dick and Jerome will be taking over the Adult Faith Formation, and that Sr. Denise will be responsible for RCIA and Confirmation for Adults.

**Parish Life**

Shannon Kramer reported that Parish Life did not meet this month; chairs/co-chairs have not been named.

**Worship and Prayer**

Mary Jean Patterson reported on the following:

- A military prayer night has been planned for Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> and published in the bulletin
- The Advent and Lent schedules are already being considered.
- Other prayer opportunities being considered are Longest Night and Holy Hours with themes: forgotten groups with social afterwards

**Vocations**

Vocations did not meet tonight.

**Stewardship**

Peter Mortenson reported that the pledge drive begins late in October. It is a goal to try to get 100% of the operating budget accomplished through the pledge drive, although hitting 80% has been the past experience. It was felt that past campaigns were successful, and therefore this year's drive will be conducted similarly.

**Human Concerns/Social Justice**

Bob Bruni

Bob Bruni reported on the following topics:

- A discussion focused on connecting with college students from the Parish.
- The Forty Days for Life event is coming up, with sign-ups available for over 1,000 prayer slots. The event runs from Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Our Lady of Hope Clinic will be hosting a series of clinics.
- St. Vincent dePaul food drive is coming up in September. A school supplies drive was completed in August.
- Two programs were hosted during the summer for dealing with stress.

**Evangelization Update**

Kathy Grzybowski reported that the Ad Hoc Committee has now evolved into the Evangelization Committee, and consists of Fr. Mike, Tim Endres and Kathy Grzybowski.

**Pastor Update**

Fr. Mike

We had a slight financial surplus last year, although we had budgeted for a modest deficit. Fr. Mike commented that we are fortunate to have had a favorable outcome, especially in light of the economy. A very large percentage of our budget is in education and learning, and we are able to maintain our high level of support in these areas. Fr. Mike later commended our Parish for being one of the most generous in the Diocese, where we are recognized as one of the most giving.

Staff restructuring was announced:

- Pastoral Care – Sr. Marge Kalina & Fr. David Greenfield
- RCIA & Confirmation for Adults – Sr. Denise Herrmann (in addition to Director of Liturgy)
- Adult Faith Formation – Deacons Jerome Buhman & Dick Martin; there will be a number of groups
- Evangelization Coordinators – Fr. Mike Burke, Tim Endres & Kathy Grybowski

There is a growing concern over security and public safety for buildings, property and people on Parish property as well as in the neighborhood. It is possible that we will consider installing security cameras or other measures. The police have responded efficiently and politely when called upon.

As of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, we had 764 pledges representing \$91,000 toward our Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal goal of approximately \$125,000. Of this, approx. \$64,000 has been paid to date. At the Diocesan level, 9.4% of the Annual Catholic Appeal goes toward the Multicultural Center.

On other notes, Fr. Mike noted the number of Seminarians from or associated with this Parish, including Vince Brewer, David Carrano and Matthew Schumacher, and Mike O'Leary reported that we raised over \$7,000 so far toward our commemorative garden, which is 60% of what we need to get started. We might be able to get started this fall yet.

**Voice of the Parishioner**

All

Voice of the Parishioner is being added as a regular topic to our Parish Council meetings. One mechanism will be to utilize the website more, including an "Ask your Council" section. Another idea is to have some visibility at a table following Mass on occasion. Finally, we may put pictures of our Council members on the website to improve familiarity with who we are.

Other concerns that were voiced include the fact that some people use Blackberries during Mass, and that Catholics have been affected by negative publicity in the newspapers. Fr. Mike brought up some discussions that have centered around H1N1 virus and possible implications for the Church and school. These matters were noted and discussed.

**Closing Prayer**

Fr. Mike Burke