

St. Maria Goretti Pastoral Council Meeting
January 25, 2010

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

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

Absent: Fr. David, Bob Bruni, Eugene Mortensen, Mary Jean Patterson, Deacon Jerome

November 2009 Meeting Minutes - The minutes of the November 24, 2009 meeting were approved.

Finance Update

John McClure provided a financial update, including a collections report and actual financial performance versus budget for the period of July 1 thru Dec. 31, 2009. So far this fiscal year, collections are running on par with the prior year, even though the budget includes a 5% reduction from last year. However, expenses will continue to be managed within the lowered budget because of the uncertainty associated with the questionable economy. One change to the budget is the Diocesan assessment, which will be paid directly out of the SMG budget, with a separate appeal to be sent to parishioners for individual giving. Parish debt is expected to be down to about \$150,000 by the end of 2010.

Security Camera Update

Tim Endres presented a diagram and write-up of the proposed security system. Midwest Security has been chosen as the vendor. Work will begin in the spring as soon as weather permits. The equipment selected is higher quality and very advanced. A gift has been received that has been earmarked to cover the estimated \$50,000 cost.

Reports by Commissions on their Strategic Plan Progress – Stewardship is reporting tonight.

Peter Mortenson discussed the three primary objectives for the Stewardship Commission in the Strategic Plan. The first is to raise 100% of the operating budget through giving. We are currently getting about 80% of our non-school expenses met thru giving. Our annual pledge drive is becoming the primary source of giving, and participation by families goes up each year. The second objective is to make sure everyone is giving time, talent and treasure for at least one parish activity. This objective is being continually worked on, but is nearly impossible to obtain 100% success. A database has been established and data is being examined to measure if we are trending in the right direction regarding participation. The third objective is to establish a planned giving program for sustained long term giving. This objective has been shelved for the past couple of years while we pay off our remaining debt. It is hoped to resurrect this objective upon successful conclusion of our debt elimination.

Education Commission Report

Ken Brown provided numerous updates. Regarding the school: Catholic schools week is coming up Jan. 31st to Feb. 5th, with an open house on Jan. 31 and a week-long food drive ending on Feb. 5th. A booklet on Internet dangers (Net Cetra, published by the FTC) was sent home to parents. Upcoming school event include an SMG band concert (Jan. 27th), H1N1 clinic (Jan. 29th), SMG sock hop (Feb. 6th), SMG used book sale (March 18th-20th) and SMG rummage sale (March 20th).

Regarding Religious Education: Donations over Advent included a large amount of food donated to St. Vincent DePaul by pre-K to 2nd graders, and \$605 was raised by 3rd to 5th graders. First reconciliation took place the preceding weekend for 103 students. First communion is scheduled for the weekends of April 24th-25th and May 1st-2nd. A retreat for parents and kids is set for March 11th.

Regarding Youth Ministry: Preparations continue for confirmation with Bishop Morlino on Sunday, May 9th. A confirmation retreat was held at Camp Gray on Jan. 23rd-24th, which was the 2nd of the year for sophomores. Upcoming events include a middle school lock-in coming up next Friday, a youth ministry pizza factory fundraiser for the weekend of Feb. 6th, the 8th annual Ash Wednesday soup and bread meal (Feb. 17th) and a middle school trip to Kalahari (Sat. Feb. 20th).

Jim Shunk commended Deacon Dick and Deacon Jerome on their efforts toward Adult Faith Formation (AFF). "The Fifth Gospel, The Land and Sea of Galilee" was aired during January.

Parish Life Commission Report

Shannon Kramer provided an update on Parish Life. The time and talent recruitment for Parish Life will be during March. A pancake breakfast will be held on Sunday, Jan. 31st. Trivia night will be held on Feb. 13th, with Jay Wilson and Kristy Andringa as hosts. Martha Doherty presented use of the SMG website as a way to promote activities and solicit volunteer sign-ups on-line. January movie night did not happen, but is being moved to Feb. 27th tentatively. Three more movie nights are hoped for this year. Goretifest has been moved to the 2nd weekend of June (12th-13th). A golf outing is being planned for August, and will be a separate event from Goretifest this year. October 9th is the tentative date for the fall Auction.

Worship and Prayer Commission Report

Time and talent recruitment window is during May. A donut Sunday is being considered. The vocations group wants to be involved in prayer for priests; a date needs to be picked and coordinated, and will likely be after Easter. The Commission also noted a marketing challenge for getting families here.

Vocations Commission Report

Mark Shapleigh reported that Vocations will be meeting next week due to scheduling conflicts. Tim Endres noted that Vocations' use of the parish website is excellent, and similar use should be considered by other commissions.

Human Concerns/Social Justice Commission Report

Deacon Dick reported that Human Concerns is meeting tomorrow night and is not reporting tonight.

Evangelization Update

Kathy Grzybowski reported that the Evangelization Committee is currently working on the Evangelization Workshop for SMG Parish Leaders scheduled for Saturday, February 27 starting with Mass at 8 a.m. and ending at noon. Kathy has been working with the facilitator, Gina Kummel, from St. Gregory the Great Parish in Milwaukee. It promises to be a very powerful experience. Council members may want to think about how SMG will move forward with its strategic plan and commission structure in the time leading up to and during the workshop. Fr. Mike encouraged everyone to make every effort to attend the workshop and continue our growth as leaders and overseers of the parish.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Mike Burke

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

- Martha Doherty was again commended for maintaining and improving our website
- We collected around \$25,000 in 2 weekends for Haiti relief
- A number of high school students from Edgewood and others participated in a Right to Life march in Washington, DC
- We continue to see increased membership
- Fr. Mike was appointed to the Diocesan finance committee
- A statue of St. Maria Goretti is being evaluated for the Commemorative Garden; money has been donated anonymously for the statue. Many additional bricks have also been ordered.
- Six priests were reassigned throughout the diocese as of last Saturday for a variety of reasons.

The next meeting will be held on February 23, 2010.

Closing Prayer

Fr. Mike Burke