

St. Maria Goretti Pastoral Council Meeting
April 20, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mark Shapleigh, Vice-Chair. Ken Brown led the opening prayer.

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

Finance Update – Fr. Mike provided an update on our finances. Contracts with teachers are currently being discussed. Despite the dire economic circumstances, our giving this year is running 2.2% ahead of last year, while spending was budgeted at a 5% reduction. Fr. Mike commented that our financial circumstances are quite fortunate, and that many individuals and parishes are faring poorly.

March 23, 2010 Meeting Minutes - The minutes of the March 23, 2010 meeting were approved with one minor correction from Mark Shapleigh regarding Vocations. The correction was made.

SMG Strategic Plan Update – A restructuring of the Commissions is under consideration. Deacon Dick reported that the by-laws would not be required to change in order to reorganize the Commission structures. Fr. Mike asked us to consider whether and why the Council members would want to see a restructuring of any Commissions. He suggested that an appropriate timeline for any changes would be by the start of the next Council in June.

Education Commission Report

Ken Brown provided several updates. First communions will be taking place over the upcoming 2 weekends (April 24-25 and May 1-2). Enrollment for the next school year is steady; tuition is increasing by \$140 per student. New text books are being selected for Social Studies. Regarding Religious Education: Early childhood religious education finished Palm Sunday. Grades 1-5 and middle school religious education finishes at the end of April. High school youth ministry finishes the first week of May. Confirmation is May 9th with Bishop Morlino; 57 teens from SMG will be confirmed, along with 46 from other parishes (St. Victor's from Monroe, St. Patrick's from Albany and St. Rose of Lima from Brodhead), for a total of 103. A high school mission trip is scheduled for June 19-27. Registrations for next year have been mailed out and are up on the website. Regarding Adult Faith Formation (AFF): Deacon Dick reported that we are looking at a continuation of many of the programs, including a continuation of the film series in May. This comes on the heels of a very successful "What We Believe" film series that concluded with a wrap-up sessions on April 18th.

Parish Life Commission Report

Shannon Kramer reported that Parish Life teamed up with the Stewardship Commission for discussions tonight, and the report will be provided by the Stewardship liaisons.

Worship and Prayer Commission Report

Mary Jean Patterson and Linda Eckstein provided a brief summary of Commission activities and discussions. There are a number of activities underway, including May being Time and Talents recruitment month. Time and talent forms will be solicited during Pentecost weekend (May 22-23). A flyer will be put into the bulletin on the preceding weekend (May 15th), and a speaker may address parishioners during Masses. The Commission is also focused on capitalizing on the momentum gained during the Evangelization Seminar; there are ongoing discussions about evangelization goals and plans.

Vocations Commission Report

Eugene Mortenson reported that the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is this upcoming weekend (April 25). There will be a table with a sign-up sheet for families to host the Traveling Chalice 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, including prayer cards, "business cards" with the SMG website promoting vocations, and brochures that promote vocations. Fr. David is also going to get an easel to complement the table display. Eugene also asked for, and received, volunteers to be at the table following some Masses.

Stewardship Commission Report

Peter Mortenson reported on the joint meeting of Stewardship and Parish Life Commissions. The two commissions are considering combining their efforts because both commissions reach out to parishioners regularly, seeking their contributions of time, talent or treasure. Volunteerism was discussed at length, with the following topics that summarized the discussions:

1) “Standard of Volunteerism” – it was felt that a document should be developed that summarized the expectations from parishioners; 2) Cultivate Lists – there is a desire to reach out to as many parishioners as possible without having one or two people doing all of the work, perhaps something like a “volunteer tree”; 3) Pursue Volunteers One-on-One – it was widely held that one-on-one contact was most effective in getting parishioners to respond to the call, a belief that was rooted in the experiences of many Commission members; a strategy of one-on-one contact also makes it even more compelling to establish a “volunteer tree”; 4) Identify Needs/Upcoming Events – prior to pursuing an aggressive campaign to recruit volunteers, we have to have some specific needs in mind (or at least the event, such as Goretifest) to discuss in our one-on-one contacts; 5) Continually Scrub Lists – the lists will need to be continually updated as parishioners become active/inactive, move, have family changes, etc. The appeal might take on the form of “What do YOU bring to this Parish?” It was largely acknowledged that the Parish Life Commission has evolved from its members being event chairs to being an overseeing body. Bob Bruni pointed out that there are a lot of other volunteer requirements besides Parish Life, including youth ministry, St. Vincent DePaul and other needs, thus touching on nearly every other commission in some fashion.

Human Concerns/Social Justice Commission Report

Bob Bruni provided information on Commission activities. The respite care project was discussed, and feedback will be sought regarding interest from the Parish. The breast cancer support group kicked off with 8 people in attendance, and was thought to be successful; a second meeting is scheduled later in the month. St. Vincent DePaul is organizing a community garden plot to supplement their food pantry; there will be volunteer opportunities all summer. 40 Days for Life was completed recently.

Trustee Updates – Fr. Mike provided the following updates:

- Mike O’Leary and Fred Kinney will be running for the open Trustee position
- May 15-16 is currently scheduled for the election

Pastoral Council Updates – Tim Endres provided the following updates:

Nominations forms were distributed last weekend, and will be again this coming weekend. Only 2 candidates have surfaced so far. Council members are encouraged to promote nominations. A Council member will interview each candidate and provide an orientation prior to discernment to answer questions and discuss the role of the Council in general.

Evangelization Update

Fr. Mike provided insights on our continuing evangelization efforts. He shared that there is no one commission that can adequately address our efforts; instead it’s more of an attitude that the entire Parish community takes on. There is a growing emphasis in the Catholic community at all levels toward evangelization. Our own results from programs such as “What We Believe” and our recent RCIA class are indicative of what can happen when we welcome others to share the faith. Fr. Mike envisions developing a plan to energize and mobilize our Parish community, with it commencing next fall. As a next step, several people will get together with Kathy to discuss putting a plan together, with an update at the May Council meeting.

Pastor’s Report

Fr. Mike Burke

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

- The number of activities at our Parish are in high gear – weddings every weekend, lots of baptisms, and confirmations coming up.
- Madison police have been very attentive to our needs for security and minimizing traffic through the back yards.
- We will be getting a seminarian starting in July, Chad Droessler, who will be getting ordained as a Deacon in Belgium in October 2010. There are a number of priests who have expressed an interest in retiring, putting pressure on how to cover all of the duties across the diocese. Sr. Marge has already been working far more than was originally envisioned. Fr. Mike might look to expand our staff to meet the pastoral care needs of our Parish.
- Bishop Morlino shared with Fr. Mike and others some upcoming changes that he will likely be implementing in the liturgy. The projected date for implementation is the first Sunday of Advent 2011. The use of some “extraordinary form” liturgy, which stems from the original Latin, will be replacing some “ordinary form” liturgy in use today.
- The reported plans for St. Paul’s Catholic Center are quite preliminary. Bishop Morlino has expressed his feelings that the needs there are fairly urgent, but that the size, scope and feasibility of the project have not been determined.

The next meeting will be held on May 18, 2010.

Closing Prayer

Fr. Mike Burke