

St. Maria Goretti Pastoral Council Meeting  
May 18, 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, Bob Bruni, Linda Eckstein, Jim Shunk, Mary Jean Patterson, Shannon Kramer, Kevin Streetar, Ken Brown, Peter Mortenson, Deacon Dick, Tim Endres, Mike O'Leary, Susan Wilke and John McClure. Absent: Fr. David, Deacon Jerome and Eugene Mortenson.

**Finance Update** – John McClure provided an update on our finances. John stated that we had a very good year primarily because of the generosity of our parishioners. We had budgeted for, and expected, a drop-off in revenue because of the state of the economy, and controlled expenses in response. However, our revenue will come in around 2% ahead of the prior year, while our expenses were cut somewhat. Some of the cost savings were wage freezes and suspension of 401-k payments, which we will be relaxing in the upcoming budget. Revenue for 2010-2011 is budgeted to be even with the current year, except for a tuition increase that is being implemented for next year.

**April 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of the April 20, 2010 meeting were approved.

**Human Concerns/Social Justice Commission Report** Bob Bruni provided information on Commission activities. Right to Life is having a baby shower next weekend for a couple that chose life for their child as a result of talking with 40 Days for Life representatives from the fall campaign. The plan for the next meeting is to re-write/draft revised goals under the strategic plan, and to incorporate evangelization efforts into the goals. St. Vincent DePaul will have a school supply drive during the last weekend in July and the first weekend in August. The breast cancer support group had its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in May.

**Education Commission Report** Ken Brown provided several updates. The last day of school is June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Home and School Association is making donations to the school, all of which is funded through the SCRIP program. Items being acquired include: a new computer lab; new laptops for the teachers to match the technology in many new teaching tools; and each class will be receiving some type of technology upgrade, including smartboards, interactive projectors and HD projectors. A question was raised regarding the disposition of retired computer equipment, which Ken said he would investigate. On the staffing front, the Learning Resource Teacher and the Spanish Teacher positions will be expanded to be full-time. Spanish classes will be available to middle schoolers three times a week, and there will be some type of Spanish instruction available from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up. Ken noted that the school is grateful to the entire parish for the time/talent/treasure that has been given to the school to make all of the advancements possible. Council members were uniformly impressed with the report, especially with the funding that stemmed from the SCRIP program. Regarding Religious Education and Youth Ministry, confirmation took place on May 9<sup>th</sup> with Bishop Morlino for 103 teens, including 46 from outlying parishes, and a high school mission trip is planned for June 19-27. Jim Shunk reported that Adult Faith Formation did not meet this month.

**Parish Life Commission Report** Shannon Kramer reported that Parish Life and Stewardship met together again this evening. The evangelical outreach of the Commission is focused on reaching out to parish members who have not been active with time and/or treasure. Two programs have been identified to recruit and encourage participation: 1) At least 2, and possibly as many as 4, evening receptions to welcome specific new parishioners. The receptions would include food and drink, and would be limited to perhaps 50 invitees in order to keep the receptions more personal. 2) A “reach out” calling effort is being considered as a means of getting relatively inactive parishioners more involved. Specific needs (such as Goretifest or other events) would be determined prior to the calls to provide an identifiable task and call to action. The calls would be oriented toward a one-on-one, personal invitation. Apart from the recruitment programs, an “anniversary party” is being considered for parishioners who have been with us for 12 to 24 months. One of the purposes would be to receive feedback on their experiences in our parish, and how we can improve our new member efforts.

**Worship and Prayer Commission Report** Linda Eckstein reported that Worship & Prayer Commission met the prior week in order to prepare for the upcoming Time and Talents recruitment during Pentecost weekend (May 22-23). A table will be manned following Masses, with information and flyers. Evangelization was also discussed, with promotional ideas including a flyer, improved website information and the possibility of speakers at Masses.

**Vocations Commission Report** Mark Shapleigh reported that Vocations met the prior evening. Bill Bullock will be speaking with Martha Doherty about promoting/highlighting the traveling Chalice program on the website. Much of the evening's discussion pertained to what people know about Pardeeville, as that is the destination parish for Fr. David upon his reassignment in July.

**Stewardship Commission Report** Stewardship was covered under the Parish Life report.

**Trustee Updates** – Tim Endres and Fr. Mike provided the results of the Trustee election. There were 982 total votes cast, and Fred Kinney was elected to the open Trustee position

**Evangelization Update** Kathy Grzybowski led a discussion on our evangelization efforts. She encouraged all Commissions to review their web pages and consider what might help bring them to life. Martha Doherty should be contacted to implement new content. Martha will be taking pictures of the Council members next fall for inclusion on the website. One idea under consideration is to spotlight various Council members in the Gatherings newsletter throughout the year. Kathy also noted that we are looking at councils in other parishes for ideas, such as why people volunteer, etc. Commission restructuring was also discussed. Tim Endres shared some ideas that have surfaced about combining Parish Life and Stewardship. Kathy suggested that there may be other groups of unaddressed needs, such as adult singles. She requested that the Commissions come up with goals that reflect the working statements developed at the evangelization workshop, and to use these goals to help shape a recasting of the Strategic Plan objectives, with the primary objective being to not lose the momentum gained at the evangelization workshop. Others suggested that the next Commission members/structure be involved in defining the goals and statements as both a refresher of that Commission's mission as well as to take ownership of the goals. Fr. Mike offered that that the Council should give the Commissions some direction as to how to think about, pray about and develop their evangelization goals. Peter Mortenson suggested that next year's commission updates on the strategic plan be centered on the evangelization focus of that commission, in preparation of rewriting the Strategic Plan in the future. Kathy was going to redistribute the goals set by each Commission at the evangelization seminar.

**Pastor's Report** Fr. Mike provided information on a number of issues affecting the parish, including:

- The Pastoral Council discernment process was conducted earlier this evening, with the following persons selected for 3-year terms: Linda Kelly, Tom Gulley and Bob Bruni. Fr. Mike thanked the people who have been involved in the Council during the past year, including those who are done with their terms, the Executive Committee, and particularly our chairperson Kathy Grzybowski. Mike O'Leary was thanked for his service as Trustee.
- The reassignment of priests throughout the Diocese was distributed and discussed. Fr. David Greenfield has been reassigned to Pardeeville where he will head three parishes with 4 churches. We will be receiving the services of Fr. David Carrano, who will be ordained and who spent some time last summer at St. Maria Goretti as a seminarian. A couple of articles pertaining to priest appointments and making the most of leadership changes were distributed for Council members' reading. A farewell celebration for Fr. David Greenfield will be scheduled for the weekend of July 3/4. A welcome reception will be held for Fr. David Carrano after Masses the weekend of July 10/11. Seminarian Chad Droessler will also be joining us on July 20<sup>th</sup> for about 2 months.
- The Annual Catholic Appeal has generated pledges of approximately \$2.2 million, compared to a goal of \$2.7 million. The \$2.2 million represents an increase of approximately 11% over the prior year. SMG parishioners have pledged \$110,000, which represents 91% of our goal.
- Our security system is being installed, and there have been some incidents of trespassing that seem to be increasing. There will likely be some signs installed to deter trespassing and to give the police some leverage when they enforce the privacy of our property.
- We need to put together our time capsule for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the next month. Council members will send their ideas to Tim Endres.
- The importance of Goretifest was emphasized. All of the events throughout the year were cited for the meaningful impact they make upon parishioners and prospective parishioners alike.
- Hawks Landing will be the site of our Parish Golf Outing on August 16. Fr. Mike wants to see us fill up every available golf slot for the success of the outing.
- Our own financial situation has been excellent, but we need to be mindful of retiring our remaining debt and saving for a rainy day, because nothing should be taken for granted. The idea of establishing a sister parish in another part of the country was mentioned.

**Concerns of the Parish** Two concerns were discussed. 1) The lights in the Church have been working out splendidly. Our electricity consumption is down, the lighting is materially better and we have not had to replace any bulbs in 15 months. 2) Sue Wilke noted that the number of parishioners who partake in the cup during Eucharist seems to be a very small proportion since resuming this part of the sacrament. There was some discussion, and the concerns will be discussed with Sr. Denise.

The next meeting will be held on June 15, 2010.

**Closing Prayer**

Fr. Mike Burke