

St. Maria Goretti Pastoral Council Meeting  
September 20, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Kathy Grzybowski. Tom Young led the opening prayer.

**Present:** Msgr. Mike Burke, Fr. Chad Droessler, Tim Endres, Deacon Dick Martin, Kathy Grzybowski, Mark Shapleigh, Linda Eckstein, Jeff Kassing, Brian McMichen, Tom Young, Ken Brown, Frank Peregrine, Tom Gulley, Jim Shunk, Peter Mortensen, Terri Kysely.

**Excused:** Bob Bruni, Susan Arthur

**Outreach:** Terri Kysely, the special events coordinator for the parish was at the meeting today to describe her role. She is responsible for the events of the parish such as the fish fry, spaghetti dinner, pancake breakfasts and the recent brat fry. Since taking over this position, Terri has been meeting with chairs of events and documenting the specifics of each event so that there are guidelines for each event. Her goal is to encourage members of all ages to volunteer for the parish events. She met with Frank and Ken this evening as part of the parish life commission. They discussed having a volunteer drive and brainstormed ideas regarding volunteerism. Usually new members document their interest and then a chair of their interest is contacted. Father Mike praised Terri and the work she does for the parish. He feels she has a remarkable talent in this job and is very capable in this role. She is very easy going which is an asset to her role. The council agreed with Father Mike's sentiment.

**Aug 22, 2011 Meeting Minutes:** The minutes were approved by the council.

**Financial Report** – Father Mike reviewed the current financial status. Overall collections are on target for the year except the last couple weekends. Collections are down about a half a percent. It seems that mass attendance has been less. Is support for the parish down now that the mortgage is paid off? Some felt this may be true. Some also felt it may be a reflection of economic times and the beginning of the school year. It is important that the parish understand the financial needs of the parish and this will be a focus of the upcoming stewardship presentation to the parish. In the future we need to focus on the maintenance and upkeep of the parish campus. We will have expenses for the roof as well as a future need to purchase a new organ. Father Mike stated that we are also in the process of the financial audit and are preparing the diocesan report.

**Evangelization** – Kathy talked with Martha Doherty regarding the parish web site. The commissions will meet with Martha on designated months to update their websites. Martha suggested that worship and prayer be in October as they are actively working on their web site. Kathy reports that we will continue to highlight council members on the web site so the parish knows who we are. She thanked Father Mike for sharing his vision with the council last month. It will help in the coming year to give focus to the future plan for the parish. As part of our discussions on evangelization, we will be reading chapters from the book "Turning Hearts to Christ". We will have a mini in-service each month discussing the chapters in the book. The first chapter is about sense of belonging. We need to keep evangelization at the forefront of our discussions.

**Strategic Plan** – Father Mike gave us an update on the strategic plan process. He has made inquiries regarding consultants and found they are more expensive than he thought. The reason is that they are highly sought because they are experts at strategic planning. He will be talking with a potential candidate from Wisconsin this week. Father Mike emphasized that this is a 12-18 month process and it is unknown what the time commitment will be for the planner. Council members suggested that this person may be needed once a month, or the equivalent of a 30 % position. Father Mike stated that we need to have the parish and focus groups involved. The diocese does not have anyone who could provide expertise as a strategic planner. Father Mike wondered if we should contact Sr. Barbara who helped with the capital campaign in 2002 to see if she has any thoughts or vision on this process. The number one priority is to hire someone who is good at strategic planning and for someone who has good references. We will be setting the direction of the parish for the next twenty years and we want to find someone who understands our parish and catholic faith. Father Mike wants to have the steering committee meet as he receives more information.

**Young Adults Update-** Father Chad reported that the group now has a mission statement and have updated their web site. This Saturday is the Goretti Gallop. So far 11 people have signed up for this event. The group is thriving with Meg Aspinwall receiving many inquiries regarding the group. There are many opportunities to be involved in including small

groups, charity work, and learning opportunities. The mission trip to the Bahamas will be in January of 2012. Email Meg for information or check out their web site. She is looking for ideas and exploring opportunities in the diocese.

### **Commission Reports –**

***Education*** – Tom Young and Jim Shunk are the new liaisons with the school. They will be connecting with the school to keep us up to date. Tom Young reports that there will be an all school mass for the diocese next year. Deacon Dick reported that starting Oct 16, 2011, we will be offering a series on the biblical background of the mass. This will be a 30 minute video and then discussion. In January 2012, we will begin a series by Father Robert Barron on Catholicism which will take place on Sunday evenings.

***Parish Life*** – Ken and Frank met with Terri Kysely to help rejuvenate the Parish life commission. Upcoming events include the Fish fry, the fall auction and movie night on October 22. They discussed how to encourage volunteerism. Ideas included sending out a survey to all parishioners about being a volunteer. They also discussed evaluating the current programs. Do the events meet the needs of the parish? Establishing personal contact may be the key to increasing volunteers.

***Worship and Prayer***- Did not meet today. They continue to work on their web site. The music is being rehearsed at masses in preparation for the changes in mass this fall.

***Vocation*** –Mark discussed Jim Flad's work on Eucharist adoration for support of vocations. They are looking for some time around lent for this service. They continue to discuss an idea of a field trip for young men to a seminary. They also discussed how to update their portion of the web site. Bill Bullock has expressed interest in stepping down as the chair of the vocation commission. The commission is looking for a new chair.

***Stewardship*** – Tom Gulley discussed the survey for new members. They continue to make minor tweaks and will then bring it back to the commission for approval. This survey is for members who have been here about a year. Peter discussed the upcoming stewardship campaign. We need to focus on the monetary needs of the parish and keep members informed of what the financial needs are for the future. There will be a mailing to all parishioners in the near future.

***Human Concerns/Social Justice*** –Deacon Dick reported low turnout for this commission. We need to revitalize this commission with new members. The SVDP food drive is a monthly project. This next weekend we will be handing out grocery bags for the food drive. They continue to work with the Meadowood center in caring for the people of our community. The giving tree has supported the Meadowood community center. The council talked about how to energize people of all ages to become involved in social issues. We may do this by focusing on local issues. Our older generation is an important group to help mentor new people in commission work.

**Parochial Vicar Update** – Father Chad went on retreat with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to Camp Grey. It was an amazing experience to see the catholic faith through the eyes of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. There is work to do to help build our youth's knowledge of the catholic faith. Teaching our youth is an important role for him as a parochial vicar.

**Pastor Update** – Father Mike reported that all priests of the diocese are taking part next week from Sunday to Wednesday in the Presbyteral Assembly with a focus on Marriage. It is important that the priest meet as a group to support each other. There will be some changes this month in assignments of priests due to a retirement and a priest's involvement in the military. On May 20, 2012 there will be a celebration marking the beatification of Pope John Paul II. The diocese will want to use our campus for this celebration. Vince Brewer will be ordained a deacon at the end of May, 2012. We have increasing membership in our parish and we need to make sure that these members are connected. We need to develop a mentoring program. There is continued interest in Eucharist adoration and we need to find time for this important worship. Father Mike also discussed how we need to support our parishioners in their marriages and family life. More couples are separating. What can we do to help develop family and parish life? Father Mike also wants to develop a pastor's report to make sure that parishioners are kept informed of the parish needs. The diocese has also distributed a flyer for the bulletin about the recent contraceptive mandate.

The meeting was adjourned following a prayer by Fr. Mike at 8:37 PM. The next meeting is October 18, 2011.