

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Pastoral Council Minutes
“Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus” (Hebrews 12:12)
Thursday January 8, 2009

INTRODUCTION

Opening Prayer: Todd Popson

Roll Call: Fr. Eric, Todd Popson, Phil Cade, Ann Marie Camarata, Tom Yost, Carrie Everhart, Bob Kleehamer, Beth Duffy Dries, Mark Bliss, Terry Horton and Van Willis. Jeff Powell joined the Pastoral Council meeting

Absent/Excused: Peggy Osborne

Approval of Minutes: Bob Kleehamer motioned to accept the December minutes, Van Willis second, all were in favor and minutes were approved.

Pro-Life Committee – Jeff Powell shared with the council on behalf of the Pro Life Committee. He encouraged us to take more of a note on what it means about the sanctity of life and what our church stands for. He also asked when issues on pro life come up to please support and pray about them. On January 31st & February 1st we will have the opportunity to sign the Pro Life post cards that will be at all the masses. These cards will be sent out to our representatives.

Jeff talked about “The Freedom of Choice Act” (FOCA) – the most radical abortion legislation in US history. FOCA states that every woman has a “fundamental right” to have an abortion and “no” government (federal, state or local) may deny or interfere with this right.

COMMISSION BRIEFING

Stewardship Commission: Tom Yost talked on behalf of the Stewardship Commission. See attached report. Why Stewardship? A document written by the US bishop in 1993 came out with a Pastoral Letter on Stewardship. This was a time in the church that leadership, priest, parishes and folks wanted the bishops to come up with creative ways to raise money and funds and to help struggling parishes. Church leaders were asked to come up with some type of stewardship program to answer and help with this crisis. One of the chief architects of this letter was the late Thomas J. Murphy, Archbishop of Seattle. He wrote the book “What Do I Own, and What Owns Me” This was a major revelation for him (on his own personal life) on what Christian Stewardship means. His conclusion was – everything I have comes from God, I own nothing.

Stewardship as a way of life has astonishing implications for our relationships and daily lives. We can experience life-shaping changes of mind and hearts as we commit ourselves to the Lord.

Stewardship serves everyone in the parish. It seeks to invite all the baptized to live out their vocation and baptismal call. It calls everyone to belong and participate in parish (archdiocesan) life according to their gifts, talents and resources.

Most Pressing Challenges: Education that leads to conversion; Awaiting and implementing a new Called to Serve; on a two year slide of intention cards returned.

OLD BUSINESS

St. Paul Year Ad-hoc Committee – Fr. Eric will be meeting this Saturday with the committee. He will give us an update at our next meeting. He reminded us about the upcoming Soup & Soul this coming Tuesday evening and the Ecumenical Prayer Service on January 20, 2009 at our parish.

Capital Campaign – Master Plan Progress – Fr. Eric has not received a new Koch report yet. The skylights were delivered shortly before Christmas to Cook Corporation and scheduled to begin installation next Wednesday. It will take four days to install weather permitting.

Fr. Eric met yesterday with Ed Jerdonek about the renovation of the Narthex. There was confusion about what doors were included. He put together a revised quote (prices did increase) for the Narthex. What this includes now is: (a) Narthex Restroom and Related Renovations – includes heating and air conditioning, lighting and everything to do with the new restrooms - \$157,335.00 (includes also the interior glass doors). (b) Narthex Exterior Doors into the Narthex - \$15,220.00. (c) East and West Vestibule Doors (needed at this time, save us money in the long run) additional \$33,646.00. TOTAL for Narthex Renovations \$206,201.00. The council agreed to replace the two side doors.

Financial Report – Bob Klee hamer gave the Financial Report. See attached report. December's monthly collection was \$110,372.60 and Year to Date is \$494,609.72.

Baptismal Font (is not a Capital Campaign project) – Fr. Eric is meeting with the Baptismal Committee this Saturday. They will be outlining the font on the floor of the sanctuary so we will be able to visualize the size, shape and location of it. We are still hoping for an Easter completion date. Fr. Eric will know more Saturday.

By-Laws – Final corrections were made to the By-Laws and we will vote at the next meeting.

Todd thanked everyone for participating in Fr. Eric's installation mass and reception.

NEW BUSINESS

Our parish staff will be going on an overnight retreat at St. Meinard's on February 1st and 2nd. There will be eight of us attending the retreat.

This past Tuesday Fr. Eric received a call from Fr. Brendan Moss who did our parish mission last year, he is the Director of Pastoral Formation for the Seminary at St. Meinard's and he was calling to ask if we would be interested as a parish in hosting a third year theology student from the seminary for a period of eighteen months. He would start this spring semester (every Wednesday at Our Lady of Perpetual Help) to work in the areas of catechetical ministry. Next year he would be ordained a deacon in the fall and be assigned as a deacon to this parish.

This spring we will be hosting a group of four or five first year philosophy students to observe the parish. They will be here four or five days just to observe.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2009

Closing Prayer: Todd Popson

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Marie Camarata, Secretary