

SHJ Pastoral Council Minutes
Monday, August 27, 2007
Taken by Cindy Gibbs

Attendance:

Neil Schiffhauer, Cindy Gibbs, Michelle Anderson, Denise Roberts, Father Bill, Tammy Sandoval, Deborah Ardila, Mark Evevard, Sheryl Gordon, David Van Bussum, Brenda Lombardi, Magdalena Harrach, Jan Altevogt

- 1. Opening Prayer - Father Bill started with a prayer at 8:12am**
- 2. Good Leaders, Good Shepherds - new program presented by Father Bill**

Chartering and sponsoring process involves deciding how the program will go; Father Bill is sponsoring us (parish council); guidelines are set forth by the Archdiocese of Denver; most have already been our priorities in the past; there are a lot of leadership things that we don't attend to that make people question why they volunteer; the approach makes a big difference

Neil discussed some differences between our parish council by-laws and those of St. Dominic's parish. We can revise our by-laws using the best parts of their and our existing by-laws.

Parish council members would need to be members of the parish; another point brought up – should staff members be part of parish council or just brought in for updates; we need a committee to put together our own charter; question about the total number of members versus productivity; question about the length of terms

A committee was formed to make our recommendations for a new charter – Cindy Gibbs, Neil Schiffhauer, Michelle Anderson, Deborah Ardilla, Brenda Lombardi; meeting date TBD.

- 3. Approval of July Meeting Minutes – minutes approved**

- 4. Building Committee Update – Father Bill**

The response from parishioners has been great regarding the sanctuary. The tabernacle is being constructed by Linda; doors for the tabernacle are being built; a bronze heart with rays will be on the front; the corpus for the new cross is being done as well; the cost of these is being covered by donations, we've done some rearranging work in the sacristy

Denise reported that we're still trying to arrange the music area and we're getting a closed circuit television in the cry room; the sound system will be modified; lights over the alter are brighter and we're going to put in the same kind of lights in the hanging chandeliers.

The lights in the vestibule are going to be changed out as well. The chiller is in it's last gasps and there's no money to deal with it because funds were allocated elsewhere; the problem is that it's overheating and shutting itself off; (it is 44 years old) the good thing is that we are at the end of the hot season, but if we're going to fix it, we can't do it in the summer when we need it.

Jan reported that the re-worked rooms are looking great; we should get digital pictures of the rooms and put online; maybe we as the parish council can host a tour of the school after mass; the outside landscaping is not finished yet; carpets are being cleaned; Mayfair put new carpet in one of the rooms.

Dave brought up that the way that we manage the renovation process is not efficient; the way a project is progressing, managed and reported needs to be improved in order to prevent delays. Communication and accountability is key; Father Bill brought up that there were several unforeseen complications that weren't discovered until the excavating uncovered them, a dangerously deteriorated gas pipeline and underground flying buttresses that were not shown on the drawings, requiring extensive re-engineering in midsummer.

5. Financial Update –

Neil mentioned that parishioners don't know where the money is going; the perception and the reality of the spending and available funds are different and needs to be explained; much of the improvements of the preschool was done by grants.

6. Financial Overview in Bulletin – Cindy Gibbs

Suggestion made by Cindy that more specific information about our costs and spending needs to be in the bulletin; this gives people a better idea of how money is spent and what money is coming in; suggestion that the information needs to be requested from the parish council. Bulletins of other parishes were reviewed for comparison to ours; Neil and Cindy are going to put together a suggested format/content for a financial overview to be included in the bulletin for approval by the council.

7. School Update – Jan Altevogt

Enrollment is 329; we are one short of having kindergarten full in both classes; only had to hire one new teacher this year; there are two 3rd grade classes. We're starting two new programs – one is a school-wide positive behavior program and the second is a team building program for the middle schools.

8. Mayfair Update – Tammy Sandoval

Theme – Shake, Rattle and Roll. Mark McCaddon is donating a new GMC Acadia (Crossover Utility Vehicle) for the auction. There will be a minimum bid, we'll probably make \$8,000 to \$10,000 with the donation; we've already

started to promote it. Co-chairs for this year are Lisa Maggio and Tammy Osborne.

9. Ministry Update

Denise Roberts - Reredos is looking complete and the sound system is being slightly modified; we've had quite a few funerals; choir is starting up and we have some young people doing the visiting Eucharistic ministry which is wonderful. Some people have expressed displeasure with the combination of masses but it's been awfully fun because people are much more participative and they can hear themselves singing; it's been a lot more exciting; hope that most people will find it that way as well.

Mark Evevard – Life Teen is going well and even without song sheets, people are singing. We have 16 kids and adults helping with the Core Team, we're combining the Spanish and English youth groups together. We have a small grant to start a high school evangelization team, probably in October we'll recruit and train high school students and raise new leaders. Mark suggested Jeff Cavins come do a parish mission for us; he's a great speaker.

Magdalena Harrach– lots of baptisms and Quinceaneras, 84 baptisms in July. There are more American people coming to the Spanish Mass. We have five Hispanic kids in the kindergarten.

Michelle Anderson – Religious Ed for kids consists of three different programs – Catechesis of the Good Sheppard, Sunday PSR classes “Making Disciples” (9:15 to 10:15) and a SHJ Home Study program. The big push is to have parents catechize their children, all three of these programs and Sacramental prep are very participatory for the parents, and the parents will be leading the instruction.

We have the most dynamic adult education at SHJ this year; the Upper Room, Neil and Linda's Tuesday evening Bible study group, Thursday morning scripture, ENDOW for Women, James Cavanagh's programs, “From the Heart to the Head to the Lips” group, “LightWorks” program led by Lynne Collins, and other programs. RCIA begins Sept. 12 and there are eight people signed up so far.

10. Marketing Committee Updates – Dave Van Bussum

The new stone school sign is going up and that's funded from the Mayfair paddle raiser. No committee meeting yet this year. Jan –we spent quite a bit of money marketing this year – from tee shirts for 6th grades, host family dinner, and it has been money well spent. Michelle spoke to graduated seniors about which schools they were attending and they gave permission for their information to be publicized. Alumni opportunity needs to be tapped; Mark brought up the success at a different parish doing a phone fundraiser

targeting alumni. That parish had an ongoing current database of their alumni students.

11. Lighting a Fire at SHJ – Father Bill

Started gathering groups of positive people (54 came to the first gathering and now we're up to 100 people) to storm heaven and find out how to light a fire and energize our parishioners. There was a need to put together a group of positive people that are excited and energetic about this parish and have a positive outlook on our parish. This has reinvigorated Father Bill and given him hope.

We're losing Father Jose in October because he is going back to his religious order; we're hoping to get a replacement. Father Terry comes back September 13th for a limited time and then he'll be based in San Francisco, but back here for periods of time.

We have so many new parishioners (maybe 75) and a lot of them are families with young children. At the parish level we should mimic what the school did with their new family pizza party and ice cream social which was a great success.

12. Neil

Neil, Linda and three others went to see Father Tim and in the foyer of his Church they had a kiosk of CDs for sale on many aspects of our faith; the speakers on the CDs are powerful. Three of our new parishioners offer to set up and manage the same thing for our parish. The idea is to make it easy for our parishioners to learn more about our Catholic faith. The CDs would be about \$3.00/ea. The established price will target a even situation. The investment is approximately \$1000 to get this thing set up and then that grant will be recovered through the cost of the CDs. Details of the project will be investigated and discussed at the next council meeting. Cindy volunteered to donate \$250.00 to the program. There is an issue of security in the foyer for the kiosk and cash, we might have to change the location or the way the CDs are sold.

We need more space for religious programs – the school is available; Michelle Byrne has a master schedule for all activities that are going on; she would be the one to talk to for scheduling.

Website – Linda needs school updates, parish info should be reviewed regularly by the staff to make sure everything is current.

Members of past RCIA groups are interested in doing a bake sale and possibly a cook book to raise funds for enhancing the prayer garden. Maybe a grotto, Statue of Mary and benches would be possible.

13. Closing Prayer led by Father Bill

Meeting adjourned at 10:00am