

SHJ Pastoral Council Minutes
Monday, September 24, 2007
Taken by Cindy Gibbs

Attendance:

Neil Schiffhauer, Sheryl Gardon, Denise Roberts, Deborah Ardila, Father Bill, Phil Simpson, Magdalena Harrach, Harold Wolfe, Michelle Anderson, Mark Evevard, Jan Altevogt, Cindy Gibbs

1. Opening Prayer led by Father Bill at 8:10am

2. Approval of August minutes

3. Building Update – Phil Simpson

The committee has not met yet this year. At this point there is no money for planned construction this year.

Gym floor – we need info from Dave Van Bussum regarding the people that wanted to fund it; question of whether it should be replaced or not; floor has been replaced once before with cork and it's pretty much to the end of it's life now. With appropriate cleaning it will probably last for another year or two. The interest seems to be in doing a wood floor when it's replaced but the existing subfloor structure may not be able to support that, hence a structural engineer is needed. They can do the calculations to see if existing structure could handle a new floor. The wheels are now in motion to do this and this all needs to be brought into discussion and brought up to the Archdiocese.

Michelle is concerned that now is not the time to pay for a new gym floor with the financial situation that we are in now; agreement that we need to make sure it's safe and cleaned once a month. If this is possible without replacing the floor, then it's a good idea.

The main drive behind the gym floor is from parishioners that want to give it as a gift; this might cause an impression that the established priorities are not being addressed, such as the chiller and also leave an impression that money is not as tight as it is. All these projects need to be very specific, especially in terms of priorities.

Needs to be confirmed – is the floor being cleaned monthly? If not, why not and what needs to be done to do it? (Neil is going to check into this)

How to set up the priority list? Based on the new bylaws, this should fall on the responsibility of parish council with the guidance of finance council.

At the Masses, mention to people to listen for the hum of the chiller because it's in its' last hours.

4. Finance Update – Harold Wolfe

Offertory is dropping and not sure why. Even the Hispanic Mass amounts are less. Other parishes are not experiencing the same drops.

Neil – need to come up with a small group of people to motivate and educate people to be financially supportive of the parish.

We can't afford to continue the programs that we are doing now. Maybe we should take from our savings and hire a development director to handle fundraising; needs to be an ongoing fundraising person that is dedicated to just that.

Information to be disseminated needs to be simple. Consequences need to be explained. People need to know what's going to happen if the weekly offerings do not improve. If the situation does not improve significantly, we will have to cut down on expenditures on the parish and the school. It has to be across the board.

People are killing the parish by withholding their funds. No understanding why in Boulder, where most people are earning six figures, the offertory is so low.

Membership numbers are the same as last year. (Approximately 1700 registered families)

The parish in Aspen has similar financial problems as we do here in Boulder.

Michelle suggested that it's important that Father Bill is not the one to talk about money. He should be our spiritual leader. It needs to come from someone else. Two hundred families support this entire parish and there are less staff members then in years past but the staff still has the same number of responsibilities.

70% parishioners say they tithe. But only 5% pay \$50.00 or more a month. It would take as little as \$1.00 more per person each week to get this parish going. Mark Evevard did a program like this at a parish and almost all programs were funded and he had a \$30,000 budget not including salary. Mark's budget here is \$4,000 and the rest is brought in through fees. Religious Ed is \$69 person.

Financial Summary

- need to wrap up financial report for bulletin – Neil and Cindy
- need to come up with group to rally the parish to give – Deborah volunteered to speak to the group; she had no idea of the financial situation and she is very active in the church; maybe have the entire family come up and speak.
- need to look into a development director – suggestion of Mark Evard's wife
- parish needs to be educated and know the ramifications
- Father Bill will send Neil a list of people that have an interest in this
- there are only 2000 people that come per weekend; 700 of those are Hispanic (currently about 400 of this entire group thithe)

5. Report on Council Charter Update & Financial Status Publication

Finalizing the Council Charter & by-laws; it will be published for the parish council at the next meeting. We defined a membership, made an attempt on limiting staff involvement at the meeting, need to put together a group for financial committee

6. School Updates – Jan Altevogt

Just came off a great retreat for the staff. Enrollment is up (330), staff, parents and kids are happy. October-fest is good. Conferences are coming up which will give us a better sense of how things are going. The pizza truck parked in front of the school is part of the 7th grade project; they are going to treat the school to a pizza party.

Looking for a music teacher if anyone knows of one with teaching and music experience. Book Fair made over \$7,000 which is at least double of last year's results. Muffins with Mom went on during Book Fair; worked out great. There is still a little construction going on. Pictures were taken of all the upgrades, they will be put in the newsletter to show people where money is going.

Suggestion to do a tour of all of the upgrades on the Sunday of October fest. Teachers could get volunteers to host the tours and show the rooms; verbal announcement needs to go out at Sunday Mass

New stone sign has been approved, but not produced yet.

Request to Jan for curriculum updates and info teachers for the website.

7. Ministry Updates – staff

Mark – good kick off, confirmation classes start 10/14, high school retreat team starting in October

Father Bill suggested using Mark Evevard's wife to do a parish mission.

Denise – planning for ministry fair, second weekend in October; we've ordered a bunch of books on consignment, Sunday prayer and children's prayer books; we're going to give out Rosaries that someone made for free, Mark is going to get some things together; information will be given out regarding the different ministries.

The cry room monitor is almost complete and the camera is already up. The sound system has been fixed. October 4th is the blessing of the animals, suggestion of 4:00pm; school is out that day with conferences from 8am – 2pm and 4pm to 8pm. Denise, Jan and Father Bill will be gone that day. Advent Penance Service scheduled for December 3rd; 25 – 30 people going through annulments in this parish

Magdalena – everything is good

Father Bill - Father Jose is leaving and Father Daniel Principe from Peru will be replacing him; his English is limited but his reading is good.

Michelle – everything is up and running; numbers are down with Sunday religious ed classes, but up with Catechesis of the Good Shepard. Smallest 1st communion class ever. We're down to about 25 – 30 kids in religious ed (usually is around 50 kids)

8. Marketing Committee Updates – none

They haven't met yet for the year

Suggestion to check out www.upcoming.com to post parish and school activities

9. Lighting a Fire at SHJ – Father Bill

It has been an amazing group; Mark was at the last meeting and said they went through a series of questions at the table to hear everyone's stories about SHJ; frustration brought up that not enough people volunteer but there was a realization that maybe we aren't actually asking people to help out.

The first meeting was in May and 55 attended; the next one was attended by approximately 100 people. It turned Father Bill around and has given him a lot of hope. He's convinced that people's hearts are in the right place but their head knowledge of their spirituality is not developed.

The next meeting is the Twilight Retreat on Saturday, October 19 from 5:30pm to 9:00 at St. Rita's in Nederland.

10. Other – Michelle – regarding CDs/Kiosk from Lighthouse Media; emails set out to RCIA alumni to help fund the program, \$800.00 needed, \$1150.00 was collected and it will also be staffed by volunteers. Father Bill asked Libby Bass if she had interest in starting a store in the old baptistery and she is interested; request to run theological stuff through Denise or Father Bill

Need someone to help Harold with finance; someone to coordinate script program for specific time every month, keeping the program consistent so people get into the habit of buying the script regularly

Neil wants to see us do the Valentine's Day dance again this year (it's during Lent this year)

Dinner for new parishioners – need someone to run it

SHJ Adoration – there is a group working on this; Denise mentioned that in order for it to work, you need three people to run it for each hour in order to cover emergencies when one can't make it

SHJ logo apparel program to be put together for the ministry fair by Cindy

Suggestion to make meeting on the same week each month; it will be the 4th Monday of every month

11. Closing Prayer – Father Bill

Meeting adjourned at 10:00am.