



**Sacred Heart of Jesus
Pastoral Council Meeting
MINUTES
Nov. 9, 2009
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 8:00 – 10:00 A.M.

Members present: James Cavanagh, Joe Kubler, Neil Schiffhauer, Fr. Bill, Melissa Haapala, Michelle Anderson, Catalina Mendez, Mary Bartsch
Absent: Pat Palaich, Pam Jackimiec, Betty Jancosek

Opening prayer: Fr. Bill

Reviewed minutes from 10/05/09

James Cavanagh assumed responsibility as president of Pastoral Council from Neil Schiffhauer.

Tommy Lorden has resigned from PC for personal/professional reasons. Consequently we need to find a replacement. Tommy recommended that his replacement be a SHJ school parent. Tommy also made the following recommendations: (1) communicate the organization chart to the parish more effectively. (2) 2011 budget should better represent our new priorities and the new organizational chart. (3) “We'd really benefit from continuing sensitivity/understanding/acceptance of the mainstream Boulder community.”

Need for secretary/recorder and vice-president. James will talk with Fr. Bill about these appointments.

School subsidies: Fr. Bill reported that the way the school is subsidized will be changing. At present, schools are funded by tuition, offertory and support from neighboring parishes whose children attend school. The two options under consideration by the archdiocese are (a) an across-the-board increase in CSAF assessment (Catholic School Assistance Fund) of approx. + 2.25% for all parishes and (b) PIA (Parish Investment Assessment), which involves a more complicated formula, but is a little more equitable and would probably benefit SHJ more than the simple % increase. Either way, the cost of supporting Catholic schools will be more broadly shared by parishes throughout the archdiocese, which will save SHJ thousands of dollars a year. Bottom line: although we don't know exactly how the new funding for Catholic schools will work, or which option will be chosen, it will substantially alleviate the financial burden currently shouldered by SHJ.

Church update: Michelle Anderson (director of administration) reported that new regulations by the Federal government regarding immigration enforcement are forthcoming. Immigration

and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency are stepping up their scrutiny of businesses and non-profits to make sure that they are complying with Federal regulations re: immigrants. This will involve a substantial increase in paper work for Michelle and the business manager who already have their hands full managing parish finances, church records and other administrative chores. An additional full-time administrative assistant is needed to handle the extra paper work.

Audit. Michelle reported that the parish audit for FY 2009, conducted by the archdiocese, is going very well. A final report should be ready by the end of the year. The archdiocese has been very helpful in enabling SHJ to be more efficient in terms of its businesses practices and consistency with archdiocesan policies.

Commitment Sunday is Nov. 15. Parishioners will be asked to complete a pledge (commitment) card at all Masses. The following PC members will speak at the five Masses to direct the completion of the pledge cards: Sat. 5:00 p.m. – James Cavanagh; Sun. 8:00 – Pat Palaich (or Neil Schiffhauer); 10:00 – Melissa Haapala; 12:30 (Spanish Mass) – Catalina Mendez (or someone she'll recruit); 6:00 p.m. – Joe Kubler.

School update: Mary Bartsch (principal) reported that the recent SHJ Open House resulted in 15 potential new students. She also reported that many families would like to send their children to SHJ school, but are impeded by the cost. The school has a current enrollment of 320 students (+ 91 students in the Early Learning Center). School capacity is around 450. Mary is trying to come up with creative funding options to help families, especially those with several school-age children.

- * General discussion ensued regarding the importance of maintaining the long-term goal of providing tuition-free Catholic education as one of our chief priorities. Melissa reminded us that this year is a year for gathering information to assess the feasibility of this goal.

Mary also reported that class size and student/teacher ratio, while not irrelevant, is not as important as teacher quality. Focusing on teacher training and recruiting is essential.

Six new Promethean “smart” boards will be installed very soon: four in the middle school; two in the elementary school. This “interactive whiteboard (or IWB) is a large interactive display that combines the simplicity of a whiteboard, power of a computer and front projection. Promethean interactive whiteboards engage students with vivid images, video and audio.” (Go to prometheanworld.com for more information).

Mary reported that many computers at the school are badly in need of replacement. Teachers depend heavily on up-to-date, efficient computers to do their jobs effectively. Joe Kubler might be able to get a grant from his company. He will investigate this further.

Gym is getting a new sound system.

Advent preparations and a food drive are underway at the school.

“Spooktacular” was a great success.

The Hispanic community provided food for a wonderful fiesta. Net proceeds from the dinner will go to support Hispanic ministry. Michelle will work with the business manager to insure that these funds are accounted for and properly designated.

Gym floor will be undergoing renovations. Neil Schiffhauer will 'shepherd' that process along; report back to PC.

The PC would like to have someone from Finance Council report on the state of the budget, particularly with respect to school enrollment, future enrollment scenarios (how an increase or decrease in enrollment will affect the budget).

Adult formation: James explained briefly that one of the goals of the Catholic formation committee is to provide a Lenten study called "A Quick Journey Through the Bible." This is an eight-week overview of God's plan of salvation from Genesis through the birth of the Church. It will begin in mid-late January. 'Quick Journey' provides the Scriptural foundation which is absolutely essential for forming "competent and confident Catholics."

Catholic evangelization: James is willing to offer an introduction to the basics of Catholic evangelization. This is a 1 ½ – 2 hr presentation which he has developed (along with Aimee Cooper) called "The Authentic Gospel Message in the Fullness of the Catholic Faith" ("AGM" for short). The full program is an in-depth eight week, 16-hour class that can be described as the 'theology of evangelization.' This thoroughly Catholic approach to evangelization is based on Scripture, the Church Fathers, the Catechism, Doctors of the Church and the Magisterium. At the root of 'Catholic evangelization' is a *sacramental* understanding of reality. James suggested that we offer this during an evening or Saturday morning in early Advent.

For our next meeting:

A. Reports from each of the committees responsible for the four priority areas & assess goals of each:

1. Do effective evangelization – communicating the Gospel
2. Provide tuition-free Catholic education – find creative funding solutions
3. Form confident and competent Catholics – provide quality catechesis for all ages.
4. Foster stronger ties between Anglo and Hispanic members of parish so that we become "one family under God."

B. Report from a member of the Finance Council on budget, especially as it relates to school funding and enrollment.

Adjourned at 10:00.

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