

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
May 22, 2006

Attendance: Julie McNeal, Father Bill Breslin, Jan Altevogt, Peggy Hoover, Cindy Gibbs, Neil Schiffhauer, Melissa Haapala, Michelle Anderson, Denise Roberts.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 am by Mellisa.

1. OPENING PRAYER: Fr. Bill said the opening prayer.

2. APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES: Minutes approved.

3. BRIEF MAYFAIR UPDATE: Julie McNeal

Estimate of up to \$160,000 revenue generated so far with a few more Boulder Cork dinners available at \$300/ea and 10 more openings for the Texas Hold 'Em event. The food was self serve and we ran a little shy on food; should probably have servers next year. There was plenty of cake and ice cream. There were 330 meals ordered and 290 paid tickets; the food ran out and we got more for 100 people and ran out again. Raised all the money for the computers. No chair for next year yet.

4. SCHOOL UPDATE: Jan Altevogt

Next year the SAC president will be attending our meetings. Graduation is tomorrow – there are 30 graduating. Twenty kids are going to Holy Family, two to Regis, two to Niwot, the others to Boulder High and Fairview. ITBS scores are in – the students are 1.5 grade levels above average. A letter will go out in the bulletin congratulating the students. Enrollment for next year is at 289 (this year it was 318). Fifth grade class – possibility of keeping one class of 27 students instead of two classes. There will be two foreign exchange students – they may both be in 5<sup>th</sup> grade; another reason to have two classes. There is a waiting list for the three year old preschool class. It was suggested that we should run ads in all the bulletins to publicize open enrollment. Meeting is set up with Rex with Brand Ed, Father Bill and Jan. We are losing Asha, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher to a public school. We are looking for a part time Spanish teacher and the PTO chair is still not filled.

5. RELOCATION EVALUATION UPDATE

Father Bill discussed ideas from a recent meeting to have a joint use of the church property if we stayed here – such as underground parking, a school on the first level and housing on the second level; also possibly purchasing a few houses near by. He mentioned that Trinity Lutheran is suffering from the same challenges and that they decided to create three levels of underground parking, a joint use facility, church and housing.

It was brought up that eight schools in the area have closed – a sign of a dying city; all of the children are on the outskirts of town. Another point that was brought up was that Casey school is closing and we could take over Casey and the area around it. This area has easier access from the Diagonal.

We decided to wait until the surveys are back from the parishioners before we vote. Father Bill noted that we need to determine the difference between a survey and a parish vote. A survey will be taken from 300 parishioners which, according to statisticians, would be an accurate representation of the parish as a whole (the Dioceses requires this type of survey). However, Father Bill suggested having a parish vote as well, so that everyone has an opportunity to have their voices heard. The issue we need to know now is what do we think we want to find out from the parishioners in this survey.

It was suggested that we also need to get feedback from the communities in the area; knock on doors; get a feel for the area. There is a concern that if we move, the enrollment may not go up. It would be good to publish our students' test scores to get the word out – our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are scoring at a 13<sup>th</sup> grade level. It was also brought up that we need to entice people that aren't looking at statistics, too. For example, publicity regarding the success of SHJ graduates; "where they are now". Stay or go, we need more marketing help.

Challenges brought up during discussion:

- We are in an age where people come back to religion, but a lot that deny it and don't want their kids exposed to it; it is our problem as a society as a whole

- In a recent article regarding Catholics and their giving habits, it states that it is a culture of what you learned growing up; it also mentions that there is a real detachment from the church

- Corporations are downsizing, people are losing jobs, salaries are being cut; we can't expect our parish to not feel the effects of this

- A concern that Trinity Church's plan is putting them in the property management business in a risky venture; it will be an expensive operation; and they will be putting a lot of their energy towards non-church related things

There was a discussion regarding non-members attending parish council meetings. It was agreed that non-members should be on agenda, speak and then leave the meeting. It is a disruption to have non-members stay for the entire meeting.

It was brought up that there is a perception that the parish money is being mismanaged. The perception is that how can a parish with so much money not be able to pay the bills. The response is that the parishioners have the money, not the church.

There is also a perception that we have more staff members than we ever did. However, the staff numbers from 1998-2001 were looked at in comparison to 2002-2005. During 1998-2001 there were 12 full time and 4 part time employees. In 2002 – 2005, there were 9 full time and 3 part time employees. Yet there were 920 baptisms in 2002 – 2005, and only 450 baptisms between 1998-2001. Between 2002 and 2005, there were also more confirmations, three times the number of youths participating in programs, increased involvement in PSR, RCIA and more people in the church, yet the income hasn't changed. She mentioned that they are doing twice as much with less staff, increased expenses and the same income.

Another misconception that was brought up was how the parish is run. There is the belief that everyone is highly paid, is never there, that nobody does anything, that money is spent with no accountability and that anyone that tries to put a stop to money being spent is fired. We need to tell people what's happening because they don't know what's going on so they try to guess. People need to know where the money is being spent. It was mentioned that we need to educate people, maybe in the bulletin, not in the homily.

#### 6. FINANCE UPDATE

There was no one present to give a report.

#### 7. MINISTER UPDATES

After April it usually slows down, but not this year. People have been inquiring on RCIA and baptisms and there is a wedding scheduled every weekend until the end of September.

#### 8. CHAIRPERSON ELECTION

An official vote was not taken, but of the six remaining people left at the meeting, there were six votes for Melissa to continue on next year.

#### 9. OTHER

There has been an increased problem with the homeless. We now have a court order not allowing specific individuals to be on the property and there is a general order for anyone that is disruptive.

10. CLOSING PRAYER: Michelle said the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 10:25am.

Minutes submitted by Cindy Gibbs