

Pastoral Council Minutes
Monday, September 19, 2005

Attendance:

Sue Wong, Howard Wolfe, Michelle Anderson, Lisa Cornell, Jan Altevogt, Melissa Haapala, Father Bill Breslin, Julie McNeal, Loretta Beckman, Tammy Sandoval, Tami Dang, Neil Schiffhauer, Betty Hoover, Magdalena Harrach, Irene Louise Bigot, Deacon Walter Sweeney, Robin Davison, Mark Evevard, Cindy Gibbs, Janet Teran.

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

1. Opening Prayer:

Fr. Bill said the opening prayer.

2. Introductions:

Melissa asked that all introduce themselves.

3. Elections / Membership:

Melissa suggested that the Vice Chairman position be addressed in a few more months as someone comes forward with interest. Melissa motioned that Janet continue as Secretary. Julie seconded the motion. Janet will be secretary this year.

4. Parish Council Web Site Information:

(www.shjboulder.org)

There was a brief discussion about publication of the parish council minutes on the web site. It was suggested that last year's minutes be made available upon request. This year's minutes will be published on the web site.

Melissa explained the purpose of the Pastoral Council. It is to support and advise Father Bill. SHJ Mission Statement must always be forefront in all we do: "Bringing to Life the Heart of Jesus." We must all pray for guidance in all we do as a Pastoral Council.

5. Capital Campaign Update:

Fr. Bill reported. A meeting this past week gathered many wonderful and excited people who will lead this campaign. There are many teams working together such as Spiritual Life, Children and Youth. There are ten groups in all. There will be large and small group gatherings which will be attended by Fr. Bill and some of the Executive committee. In one form or another, all families will be actively invited to attend a meeting or gathering. All gatherings will take place in October and November, finishing the week before Thanksgiving.

Father Bill discussed a letter which was written in opposition to the campaign which was sent to many parishioners. . He will address some of the opposition in the weekly bulletin. Fr. Bill received about 15-20 letters in response to this letter. Two of the major points of the opposition letter were as follows: 1) Don't destroy the beauty of the church; 2) We really don't have to do anything except the major repairs.

A brief discussion took place stating the need to update our parish list. Neil offered to assist Robin in updating this list with special concern for missing those not on the list. Harold mentioned that the list is in a process of being updated.

Fr. Bill reported that the architects were selected last week. The chosen architect is very much focused on preserving the beauty of the church. It is understood that any change will be bothersome to some, as beauty is a subjective matter. The question of "How do we make the focus the altar?" is being worked through with the architect.

6.) Parking

Mark reported. The teens will be passing out parking stickers after all masses this weekend. Each family will receive as many decals as they need. The decal should be placed in the front window, either on the window or on the dashboard. A discussion included suggestion of making next year's sticker a cling sticker. The parking stickers are being implemented because of many people with nothing to do with SHJ have been parking in the SHJ lot and going downtown to work or shop. A suggestion of updating the parish list in combination with receiving the stickers was mentioned. It was determined that combining those projects was too large to do at this late date, though this may be done next year. Instead, there will be registration cards available on the tables along with the stickers. If a family is out of town, they may pick up their stickers at the Parish Center next week.

7.) Scout Room

Mark reported. There has been much progress made in sharing the Scout Room. This has been brought about because of very limited space for the Youth and for safe environment concerns. The room will become a multipurpose room for all Youth activities. The room is being cleaned and made safer for all to use. There will be changes made (including replacing doors with glass doors so all can see into the room) to be compliant with the safe environment regulations. The key will be checked in and out with no one freely coming and going. The room will be reserved through the Parish Office with Parish Youth having priority.

It has been required that the Scouts lock their belongings for safety reasons. The room will be more accessible to all Youth by mid October or November. Troop 72 has been very cooperative and understanding. One suggestion was made to have a display visible to the Parish with all the Scout Troop's awards, especially the religious medals.

8.) School Update (Skipped to item #9)

9.) October Fair Update

Lisa reported. All going very well with October Fair. Bingo will be donation only. There is a real push to make the entire Fair look less carnival and more Church and community. The focus is to make the Fair a bit more of a school fund raiser. PR has been expanded to attract more attendees. Flyers have been posted around town and at local elementary schools. The goal has been to increase advertising and to make the community more aware of this event. This new direction will present a clean, positive image in our community that SHJ is a happy family and a very positive place. There will be games, craft tables and activities focused on children. Many families are involved this year. The Fair is not meant to compete with MayFair but to be more connected to children. The intent is to raise funds from a previously untapped segment of the entire Boulder community, not to ask for more money from the MayFair supporters.

8.) School Update

Jan reported. October Fair is a main focus presently. Patty Hoage will be helping with the school's new marketing effort. We have had a pleasant, positive, smooth opening to the school year. All seem extremely happy. Muffins with Mom will be on Wednesday and Thursday. Student Council elections are coming. Mark Evevard has taken these elections over and will focus more on purpose driven service projects rather than socials only. The NCA conference will be on October fourth. They require a SAC which advises the principal. Not many have come forward for this committee although there have been notices (in school newsletters) asking for some to serve. Two parishioners are needed on the committee with or without children in the school. The committee should include 6-8 people. Harold reported that St. Bernadett's SAC works very well and he will try to get their model.

10.) Finance Update

Harold reported. The parish is running a tiny bit ahead at the moment. There is hope for a positive push with the campaign for increased offertory and capital improvements gets underway.

MINISTER UPDATES:

Michelle: All very good in the Parish School of Religion despite some vacancies of teachers and volunteers. RCIA starts September 28 and is expected to be a large class. Michelle also reported that Denise needs married couples to assist in the Marriage prep classes.

Mark: Youth are off and running. We will have about 60 for Confirmation. Life Teen kicked off last night. Jr. High Kick off is 9/28. We will be selling wristband for Katrina victims to benefit the American Red Cross.

Magdelana: All is very busy. There is much work for October Fair. Religious Ed has started with approximately 150 children who are using all the classrooms. The 12 pm mass during October Fair will be a bilingual mass. There will be food, dancers etc. after that mass.

Neil: There was a poor turnout in the Returning Catholics classes. He hears that this is fairly typical for attendance to be low in the fall.

Deacon Sweeney: All is going very well at St. Rita's which is a mission of our parish. He is sending some RCIA people and Confirmation candidates as well since holding classes for so few is prohibitive. We are looking for more Eucharistic Ministers to visit homes and hospitals. There is training scheduled for October 8th. We are getting more calls for home visits. Deacon Sweeney will be starting a bereavement group soon. There will also be single day programs planned for married couples as there was little turnout for weekend programs.

11.) St. Vincent de Paul Society

Father Bill initiated a discussion of our Parish Outreach programs. Safety concerns with the current program were explained and discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Center is not set up to safely handle the programs we are currently offering, which include

lunches, food boxes, and Outreach. We also discussed the people helped by the Outreach program and the community need for such a program. The issue was considered too big to handle in this meeting.

Deacon Walter was appointed to obtain input and propose suggestions on the direction our Parish should take for its programs. It was suggested that we all pray for the answers to these difficult questions and for direction for our Parish.

12.) Other business:

Melissa discussed the schedule of the year's meetings. It was decided that the monthly meeting of the Pastoral Council would be held on the third Monday of each month with the next meeting being October 17 at 8 am in Jubilee Hall.

13.) Closing Prayer

Fr. Bill said the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am

Minutes submitted by Janet Teran