

PASTORAL STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Minutes for the PSC Meeting on March 12th 2008 7:00 PM St Albert the Great Hall

COUNCIL MEMBERS Present:

Fr. George Aranha (Pastor)	Juanita Marquez (Hispanic Leadership Team)
Bud McKenna (Facilities)	Micky Martin (Liturgy)
Susan Adams (SAG Site)	Rick Barry (Finance Committee)
Helen Baumann (STA site)	Gerard McGuire (Adult Spiritual Development)
Laura Chiu (OLR Site)	Jeanne Ramos (Community Life)
Mary Beth Lefebvre (Youth Ministry)	Nichole Khan (Communications)
Jerry Lucha (Catechetical Board)	
Ruth Chippendale (Human Concerns)	

Absent: Fr. Tony Medina, Chuck Tully (Business Manager)

Guests: Walt Lundin, Marguerite Purcell, Rob Manfrey, Phil Coates, Kieran Mcarty

PROLOGUE

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm. In Father George's absence, Susan opened a faith sharing session with a prayer. After a few moments for a short discussion, the agenda was looked over and approved as written. Bud then asked for the approval of the January and February council minutes. Before the approval of the minutes, there was a motion to post a draft and final draft on the parish website; the motion did not pass. Juanita proposed to have the first draft ready and emailed to council members within 5 days, and give all council members one week to email any feedback. The final draft would then be emailed to Mike Flynn to post on the parish website. The January and February minutes were approved as amended.

Comments from PSC Members and/or other Guests

PSC Rotation Marguerite expressed her concern that the parish is perhaps not aware, and should be informed that members of the PSC will be rotating out of the council and executive positions. Bud reminded council members and guests that to be a part of the Pastoral Stewardship Council, a parishioner must be a part of a ministry. Marguerite believes that by keeping the parish informed, members of the community could be motivated to take on a role in a ministry. Helen agreed this is a good point; the council members should inform the ministries of the PSC rotations. Bud stated that the PSC meeting time, date, location and news is consistently updated in the Bulletin. Gerard asked if the Mandala is another way to promote the PSC, and Bud agreed- however, there would be time in future meetings to go over the objectives of the Mandala, and how they can help create PSC awareness.

Environment and Art Committee Susan is a part of the Art & Environment committee. The committee helps parishes by educating and assisting with sacred spaces. She also passed out a matrix that would help guide any parishioner to understand which physical areas are affected by the rules of the committee.

Facilities Maintenance Bud wanted to let the committee know about the great amount of work that the facility employees undertake in the parish. The parish is in charge of 15 facilities, and there are 2 employees that oversee all the building's maintenance. At least one full day is devoted to each site; this only leaves 2 days for any kinds of urgent

needs at 12 locations. Any maintenance request from the parish or communities must be placed on a priority list. Per Bud, Chuck is currently working on such a list to make sure any high priority maintenance needs are first.

Archiving Update Bud informed the council that the boxes for the archiving project are being purchased, and as an additional option, the finance committee is looking into fireproof safes for sacramental documents. In addition, there are wedding packets that are not scanned or microfilmed, and are worth storing. Options will be discussed as the estimates are gathered, including the option to scan into electrical files.

Community Life Events The Seder dinner is Tuesday March 18th. The deadline for attendance is Friday March 14th, and a sign-up sheet with volunteer task assignments was passed out to the council. Micky added that the suggested donations are \$10/person and \$5/child. Any donations over this amount would go to Father Jack Donald, as it is done every year. Helen reminded the council that the St. Patrick's Day dinner was going to be held on Saturday, March 15th, and there were still a few tickets available.

Prayer Night Juanita informed the council that the Hispanic Youth ministry is planning a prayer night, tentatively scheduled for April 15th at Our Lady of the Rosary from 7pm to 6am. The prayer night will be coordinated with various activities such as rosaries, singing, worship, and more throughout the night, to pray for those who are ill, as well as those who are undocumented, or have conflicts to become residents/citizens. Flyers will come out shortly with all the information.

PASTOR REPORT

Reconciliation Father George announced that this year, there are two Reconciliation dates, in order to reach out to the families and youth in the parish. Reconciliation takes place at St. Albert the Great on Friday March 14th at 7pm, and there is also a bilingual service at Our Lady of the Rosary on Monday night and 7pm. Fr. George also expressed his amazement at the significance of the early start on Lent this year, and how this will only happen once in our lifetime.

ADA Update Father George received a report regarding ADA from Cathy Miller. To date, there were 339 families registered that donated funds. The total amount raised came to \$116,520, and funds are still coming in. In all, the results have been encouraging to witness, since the staff put in a lot of hard work into promoting ADA. Rob Manfrey added that he noticed ADA collectively in the diocese had not done very well this year (due to the Capital Campaign last year), but St. Thomas Aquinas parish overall did very well.

Burning Bush The recent Burning Bush topic on Catholicism's Myths, Confusions and Trivia was a great success. The meeting provided a secure and safe environment to express any confusion. There is a great need for a question and answer time in the church, especially for the youth. This topic definitely needs a 2nd session, possibly in May.

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was a success as well (not necessarily in quantity of volunteers, but in execution). Paid staff served all volunteers (the exception was Mary Sullivan, who helped to plan the event; unfortunately, she was unable to make the event due to illness). It had been difficult to decide if volunteers had to respond with an RSVP in order to attend. In the end, the dinner was a great experience for those who attended, and there is a great anticipation for the year to come.

OLD BUSINESS

Parish Level Retreat The council watched the introductory DVD from Michael McDevitt, and The Mystical Humanity of Christ organization for an all-parish retreat. The DVD

demonstrated examples of questions and forms of faith sharing. In the DVD, the 'retreat' demonstrated was facilitated by Michael McDevitt and Dr. Rob Bussel; they presented a topic for table discussion, then shared back as a group. This setup helped parishioners experiences each other's faith and grow. The retreat would include everything from childcare, to a Mass/Eucharist service. In fact, the Eucharist service is the cornerstone of the retreat, in order to create a heightened awareness and presence of Jesus in the parishioners.

A short discussion followed the DVD. There are two main concerns within the council members and guests. First of all, the community would greatly benefit, grow and learn from an event like this. More so, the community **needs** a time and space for questions, answers and sharing so that they may growth in faith. On the other hand, a retreat would take a large number of volunteers to work harder than ever to make this a success. Are there enough volunteers that can commit to all aspects of the project? (ie. promoting, coordinating, leadership roles, etc.) Bud announced that further discussion would take place next month. Anyone interested in borrowing the DVD may take it back to their respective ministries for further deliberation.

Thomas House Renovation There was a two-hour meeting to discuss the Thomas House Renovation and consider a top level estimate. The Home Inspection Report (from 1st walk-through inspection) was only a recommendation. After thorough investigation, Facilities and Maintenance Committee, as well as Finance Committee (?) is ready to take care of the safety issues of the Thomas House. The Building and Maintenance committee, as well Finance Committee have agreed to end the lease to the current tenants when the lease expired in August. Further upgrades are going to be considered, including the use of the entire property (not just the house).

The Finance committee met on the following night with Harry Browne, long time parishioner, who was able to provide the finance committee with the background on past major building and renovation projects in the parish to help estimate the cost of the options. The parish has hired architect Lee Lippert, who comes with a great amount of experience for this project. There are a large range of ideas; some are feasible and some are not. There is a meeting on March 20th, with city officials to sort which options are a reality. The goal is to come out of this meeting with concrete ideas. The city will insist to continue using the property for rental housing; renting out office space is no longer an option. Further meeting area options for STA will include looking into the usability of the basement at St. Thomas Aquinas.

NEW BUSINESS

Nomination Committee Bud would like the council to look over the matrix that he first sent out in January with regards to the PSC members that are due out of rotation. He will make sure to email the matrix to the council. The council needs a nominating committee to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. New members should ideally be introduced in April, and commence their position in May.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Youth Ministry Board

Mary Beth highlighted many of the events that took place in the past months. The Youth Masses took place September through March. Micky was a big help to prepare the youth. The middle school youth was able to experience a live funeral rosary for a deceased parishioner; for most, this was a first time experience. One of the exciting turn of events is that students who had been confirmed last year are returning to the parish. Most have left in the past, and it is quite exciting to see them back, volunteering, attending meetings, and being active in the parish. The Youth Ministry Committee is working very well, and there is lots of planning for the year to come. The

committee will work on acquiring new members and volunteers with a personable approach.

Liturgy Board

The liturgy board meets on the 1st Saturday of every month. Attendees include representatives from various sites, ministries and guests. The 2008 Planning Calendar is consistently being updated. The PSC and the liturgy Committee work very well together, and Micky invites the council members and guests to attend the liturgy meetings. Micky also reminded the council of the special liturgies set up for Holy Week, as well as on-going events in the parish.

STA Site Committee

Though the committee has focused a lot of the attention on the Thomas House, Helen is aware of the Art & Environment Committee guidelines in response to the interior needs of the church. Helen then turned her time over to Phil Coates to address the needs of the parishioners at St. Thomas Aquinas. Phil informed the council that St. Thomas Aquinas site has needs that are real and pressing. St. Thomas Aquinas site needs an adequate meeting facility. A meeting place for parishioners addresses the need. Per Phil, a survey by the site committee finds that there are 750-1000 parishioners at STA. The parish is similar to a mini-diocese. Parishioners also tend to stay with their own sites.

The parish is made up of newborns, babies, children, parents, and elderly. The community is an aging community, because the youth moves away. People with energy and drive find their way out of the community. The St. Thomas House renovation would help keep the community together. The ideal meeting area for St. Thomas Aquinas has a large room for meetings and receptions, a basement for additional meeting space (ie. Choir rehearsal), and 2 rooms for religion education.

CLOSURE

The PSC council meeting drew to a close with a motion passed on the Thomas House Renovations. Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Think further about the All Parish Retreat; there will be more discussion
2. Nominating Committee and PSC Rotation: This is for the council members who will leave the PSC, as well as those interested to be a part of the nominating committee.

ATTACHMENTS (Hardcopy will be available)

- a. Agenda
- b. Youth Ministry Board Quarterly Report
- c. Liturgy Board Quarterly Report
- d. STA Site Committee Quarterly Report

Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday April 9th at St. Albert the Great Hall

Ministries to Report:

- OLR Site Committee
- SAG Site Committee
- Communication's Committee
- Faith Sharing: Father Tony