

St. Nicholas Catholic Church
Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 25, 2010; 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Karen Allen, Mary Dougherty, Maureen Fenty, David Haracz, John Kelsh, Ann Rhomberg, Leonor Rojas, Susan Schaffrath, Gerry Smith, Fr. Bill Tkachuk,

Members absent: Nate Clark, Graziano Marcheschi, Brian Michalski,

As chair, Gerry convened the meeting at 7:40 pm and Ann offered the opening prayer.

Guest from Hispanic Community: The representative from the Hispanic community was not able to attend the meeting. In their absence Leonor updated the PPC on some of the concerns of the community especially about the lack of communication on parish events. She said that it is customary for the Hispanic community to celebrate events such as the pastor's anniversary but did not plan anything because they were not aware of it. The event after Pentecost Sunday was also a surprise to the community. Leonor indicated that there is support to develop a leadership group within the Spanish-speaking community that would meet after the 1pm mass. This group could serve as a liaison between the staff, the PPC, and the Hispanic community. It was felt that this was a good idea and that such a group could help to ensure a broader base of communication with the Hispanic community.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 23, 2010 meeting were presented to the group. Karen moved to revise the wording of the paragraph referring to the deacon candidate. She felt that the minutes did not accurately reflect the parish and the discussions. The minutes were approved with the changes and corrections duly noted.

Adult Formation Series: Fr. Bill felt that the four presentations were well received. Susan Ross and Sr. Patricia Crowley were able to offer a great perspective and were very informative on the subjects that they presented. He said that the third night discussion on the Permanent Diaconate was less helpful; he also felt that some parishioners believed that the decision to support Chris had already been made. Fr. Bill reiterated that these meetings were informational only and were not meant to decide the issue. Karen, who attended the meetings, said that she had learned a lot from the meetings on the role of a deacon in today's society. It was suggested that perhaps the next step should be a conversation on the role definition and what the role would be once the deacon is ordained. It was also thought that a dialogue with Chris would be helpful. Another comment from some of the community was that they felt that more of the PPC should have been present at the meetings. This led to a brief discussion on what should the expectation of the PPC be for future events. It was decided that there would be more advance discussion on community events and that members of PPC will make a point to attend as they are available. It was also indicated that the role of the PPC is to strategize and to advise the pastor.

The final decision on the diaconate program will be made by Fr. Bill in consultation with the staff, the PPC, and other key groups. He will also take into account the comments that he has heard during the town hall meetings and the adult formation series. He does not expect that this decision will be made before the fall. This topic will also be included in the August PPC retreat.

Music Director Search: There were 20 applicants (the office is still receiving inquiries), who were contacted and interviewed by phone. This resulted in a pool of seven people, out of which three have been recommended by the Search Committee and members of the choir. Two of these three are fairly strong candidates. The start date for this position will be August 1st. The transition should not be an issue, since both candidates have sufficient experience to hit the ground running.

Parish Calendar: Fr. Bill and the staff have almost finalized the master calendar for the 2010-2011 year. There appear to be no significant conflicts – dates for the Winter Gala and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass have not yet been set. He encouraged PPC members to pass the word that it is important to submit dates to Sally Arden in the parish office ASAP. Maureen will contact Sally to add the PPC dates to the calendar.

Theology on Tap: Brian Michalski is looking for young adults (20's and 30's) to join the coordinating team. If PPC members know of anyone who might be interested, please give their names to Brian or Fr. Bill. The regional Young Adult Focus Kick-off Mass for Theology on Tap will be on Sunday, July 11, 2010.

PPC Report in the Bulletin: Maureen will work with Sally to post the minutes of the monthly meetings on the website. It was felt that if the minutes were posted, a quarterly update for the bulletin is not necessary. However, a summary article (highlighting the role of the PPC and indicating that the complete minutes are posted on the website) should be published in the bulletin. Karen and Ann will work together to draft this article.

Other:

- The next Welcoming Gathering has been rescheduled for the fall.
- David Haracz informed the Council of his intention to resign from the group due to personal reasons. He said that due to family commitments he did not feel that he could continue to serve in a meaningful way. He felt that the PPC has been effective in its role and has been able to effect some important decisions in the parish. Fr. Bill accepted David's resignation and Gerry thanked him for his service.
- There was a first-ever meeting of the Building Committee, the Finance Committee and the Joint Capital Project Committee, to prioritize the major capital projects in the pipeline and begin to work toward a timeline and due dates for the more vital projects.
- The Evanston Catholic Women's Club made a gift of \$10,000 to the parish. If we balance the operating budget for the current fiscal year, this money will be set aside for adult formation and ministry and leadership formation. Several parish women are active in this group.
- The Mass schedule for the 4th of July Parade and the Parish Picnic weekends will be changed to 10 am (English) and 12 pm (Spanish) to allow for all parishioners to attend both events. There will be no Mass at the picnic site this year.
- **The PPC Summer Retreat/Working Session will be on Saturday, August 28th at 9 a.m.** Karen is the only member who cannot attend. Gerry and Susan will work on setting the agenda. The location has not yet been determined – Fr. Bill will contact the group. (Note: Fr. Bill has since secured a room at the Sheil Center for the day.) There will no meeting in June.

David offered the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next Meeting Date: Summer Retreat, August 28, 2010, 9:00 a.m., at the Sheil Center

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, September 28, 2010, 7:30 p.m., at the Rectory