

## **HOLY FAMILY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – February 24, 2010**

**PRESENT:** Father Dennis, Mike Beuche, Dave Schulz, Pam Ringsred, Claire Wycklendt, Penny Kelsey, Father Robert, Lucia Korom, Jim Pondel, Pat Koppa, Paula Hogan, Harriet Lazinski, Kevin Long, Tom Gaeta **ABSENT:** Matt Demet

**PRIOR MINUTES:** The January 2010 minutes were approved.

**FINANCE UPDATE:** Tom Gaeta reports that YTD parish support is close to budget, supported by an unexpected bequest. The February dinner dance was a financial success, and controllable expenses are also nicely in line. However, school tuition reflects the fact that we have fewer students than budgeted and utility expenses don't yet reflect the colder, snowy months. Plans are underway for a public expression of appreciation for the surprise bequest.

**UPDATE ON FISH FRY AND CHURCH ORGAN:** Father Robert reports 273 attendees came to the first Fish Fry and commented that earning \$10k-\$12k from this multi-week Lenten fundraiser is a reasonable goal. Dave S. passed out Council assignments for an upcoming Fish Fry. NOTE: Pat Koppa reports that a parishioner is ready to fund acoustic panels to further improve the sound system. Pat and Dave will follow up on this generous offer.

**PARISH THEME DRAFT PROPOSAL:** The Council discussed Father Dennis' idea to establish an annual theme for the Parish. Discussion focused on how the theme could be interwoven into parish life throughout the year. The Council discussed the fact that religious education and the school are already in the habit of having an annual theme for their part of parish life and also the importance of good process in choosing a parish-wide theme. After considerable discussion, the Council voted unanimously to ask Father Dennis to carry back to the ministry team the idea of "*Come Join the Family*" as the proposed parish-wide theme for the fiscal year starting July 2010.

**PARISH SURVEY:** After reviewing a detailed summary of individual survey comments, the Council asked that the summary be edited so that each area commented upon will have a concise summary. New summaries will be forwarded to Dave Schulz and Matt Demet for collating and forwarding to Fathers Dennis and Robert in preparation for publication in the parish newsletter.

**PARISH WIDE MASS:** Plans for a parish wide Mass at Pentecost continue. The Council would organize the associated pot luck. Logistical details such as the location for the potluck and ensuring wheelchair access will be considered at the March Council meeting.

**FIOF UPDATE:** We continue to look for leadership for the next phase of the campaign. Cash flow to date, with about \$285k already collected, appears on pace for collecting the budgeted \$750k over three years. But the pace of future contributions is not yet known.

**DISCERNMENT PROCESS:** Please encourage those interested in serving on the Council to come to the April meeting for more background information and to prepare for the discernment process which occurs at the May meeting.

**DISCUSSION OF THE HOLY LONGING:** Discussion of Chapter 9 included a shared awareness of the importance of teaching about the spirituality of sexuality, including a broad view of the nature of a chaste life. The Council will discuss Ch. 10 next month and, in April and June, will discuss some pamphlets on the new Roman Missal.

**COMMITTEE LIAISON UPDATES:** *Stewardship:* Pat K raised a new idea for the weekly Mass collection: To recognize the increased use of electronic and lump sum contributions and to recognize the symbolic importance of wide stewardship participation and full baskets, he suggests that we provide reusable laminated cards available at church for placing in the baskets each week. The use of such a card by someone attending Mass which would indicate contribution by electronic giving or lump sum payments. The Council enthusiastically forwards this idea to Stewardship for further consideration and probable implementation. *Staff:* The registration of new members at the first weekend Mass of each month is working well. Everyone is pleased to hear that Cathy Presti is beginning a gradual return to part-time work. *Bldg & Grds:* The budget process is underway, with upcoming challenges to include a possible \$12k expense for the postponed resurfacing of the parking lot and a surprise possible \$30k expense to repair the front doors of the church. *Adult Formation:* Lenten gatherings each Tuesday of Lent in the chapel (7:15-8:15pm) are underway.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Father Dennis provided a summary of the successes and challenges of the new shared pastor arrangement as identified in the joint staff meeting he hosted in December.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Hogan

**BLURB FOR THE BULLETIN:**

Parish Council discussion this month focused on the idea of having a parish wide theme for each fiscal year and also how best to use and communicate data from the recent parish survey. In addition, the Council considered liaison reports concerning finances, stewardship, adult formation, and buildings and grounds and discussed Chapter 9 of The Holy Longing.