

HOLY FAMILY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – March 12 2009

PRESENT: Father Dennis, Phil Behling, Mike Lynett, Mike Beuche, Harriet Lazinski, Dave Schulz, Pam Ringsred, Paula Hogan, Claire Wycklendt, Penny Kelsey, Kevin Long, Tom Gaeta, Lucia Korom, Tony Monfre, Mark Hirschmann, Rick Domach, John Desing

ABSENT: Father Robert

HOUSEKEEPING: None. (Prior minutes not discussed.)

FINANCE UPDATE -2008/09 Budget : Tony reports that the deficit widened in February and that monthly cash flow is now regularly supplemented with draws from savings. Kevin presented a March-June monthly cash flow projection along with an early draft of a letter for parishioners explaining our financial situation. The projection suggests that the rainy day fund will be used up by June.

Discussion included the idea that a cash situation like this is not sustainable and consequently that the situation calls for immediate expense cutting, increased emphasis on sharing expenses with St Roberts, and increased understanding that we need more parishioners. Several expense cutting ideas were mentioned, along with the opinion that providing specific cost reduction ideas to parishioners is important...

Tony reports that routine cleaning expense will be pared back in April. Claire suggested scheduling meetings in a way that avoids having to heat up McCormick Hall or the church mid-week and also setting up a personnel committee to review job descriptions. Father Dennis advised Tony to send an email to staff announcing a freeze through 6/30 on any spending absent specific approval in advance. He also commented that parish outreach is not affordable at this time. Father Dennis also commented on the need to communicate well with the parishioners on our finances.

There will be a blurb in the bulletin announcing a letter that will explain our finances and ask for a one time donation to help with cash squeeze. The letter will be available at Mass on the 3/21 weekend, the same weekend when Father Dennis will offer a “state of the union” type comment during Mass. Letters not picked up will be mailed, except that letters to non-givers may be held back in order to save expense. (One third of parish families do not contribute to the parish). Please send suggestions for the final letter to parishioners by email to Kevin before this Sunday. .

FINANCE UPDATE 2009/2010 BUDGET: Tony presented the proposed budget. Council members are asked to consider this data and email questions to Tony before the next Council meeting, at which time Council members will be asked to vote on the budget. Parish weekly support is budgeted for \$803,167, versus the prior year’s \$906,000 budgeted amount, and the prior year’s \$820,417 actual amount, and an estimate for this year’s actual parish weekly support in the high \$700s. Rick Domach commented that timely maintenance expenses can save money, especially as we try to patch out some extra months with the current heating system.

A big thank you was offered to Kevin Long for the major work he is doing to shepard parish finances and to Rick Domach for his major contributions to buildings and grounds.

PASTOR’S REPORT: Father Dennis commented on the importance of “tightening our belts” and also of continuing to move ahead and to keep and to communicate a positive view of the situation.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Hogan

BLURB FOR THE BULLETIN:

The Parish Council held an extra meeting to discuss parish finances. Cash flow for now until June was the first topic and the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 was the second topic. Discussion included the immediate need for attention to cash flow issues and the importance of communicating well with the parish about our finances. Council members will consider these issues and especially the proposed budget between now and the next Council meeting, at which time the budget will be brought up for vote.