

## HOLY FAMILY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – March 25 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, Tony Monfre, Rick Domach, John Desing, Stacy Ward, Angela Little

**ABSENT:** Father Robert, Lucia Korom, Mark Hirschmann,

**HOUSEKEEPING:** Feb 24th and Mar 12th 2009 minutes were approved with minor edits. Arrangements made for: 4/5 hospitality (Tom G & Mike B), appreciation letters (Kevin L), and 5/16 trustee election plans (Claire and Pam).

**MEET THE STAFF: School Principal Angela Little:** Angela Little offered a comprehensive state-of-the-school report with lots of good news: Current enrollment is 216 students with 210 students budgeted for next year, and a strong to-date enrollment of 24 students for K4 next year. Development and recruitment efforts have been strong. There is a new case in the foyer heralding the core values of *dream, believe, achieve, and lead*. The new school tag line is “*The journey begins here.*” The recent open house had 19 new prospective families. Recent outreach programs for seniors included two luncheons. The theme for this year of *Make God’s World a Better Place* led to multiple service projects, more environmental awareness projects, and an anti-bullying campaign. There is a new and more holistic reading series for grades 3-6. Faith development is woven into the whole curriculum and also includes weekly Mass, daily morning prayers, plus Advent weekly prayer services, with increasing student involvement. Two teachers celebrate big anniversaries this year. Smart boards are in most classrooms and teacher expertise with them is increasing. There is keen appreciation of the need to increase enrollment and to manage daily finances wisely. Upcoming strategic planning will focus on curriculum, faith development, and technology.

**INTERIM FINAL ACTION – MASS ATTENDANCE INITIATIVES:** As Father Dennis commented, Mass attendance and being a welcoming community go together and we have something good going on at Holy Family. The hospitalities after Mass are thriving and a school welcome program is beginning. Penny will organize a committee of Laura Buchman, Phil Behling, and Harriet Lazinski plus some staff representation to investigate which of the Mass attendance ideas developed in recent months are timely and appropriate for action. This group will report back to the Council at the June meeting.

**2008-2009 PARISH COUNCIL GOALS:** *Stewardship committee* is up and running as of this week, as per Dave S. The *Evangelization* committee will be collaborative with St. Robert’s, likely starting this summer to plan for September activities. *FIOF Campaign* has gathered \$100k of which \$60k has been returned to Holy Family. We need an allocation process for these funds. *Shared Pastor Arrangement* has been reviewed from the perspective of the Council, the priests, and the school community.

**FORMATION DISCUSSION OF THE HOLY LONGING:** Harriet led a discussion on Chapters 4 and 5. *Please read Chapter 6 for the next meeting.*

**DISCERNMENT PROCESS UPDATE:** Discernment will take place in the usual manner in the chapel on 5/27. Council Member will call a variety of parishioners to determine interest in serving on the Council and will invite those interested to the April Council meeting.

**FINANCE UPDATE:** The Council discussed a few specific budget items and then voted unanimously to recommend the budget with no changes to Father Dennis. Discussion topics

included the pros and cons of suspending Mission Outreach and the importance of keeping the Mission Outreach envelopes readily available. School compensation and continuing education budgets were also considered in light of equity within the parish and also of our competitive standing relative to other north shore schools both public and Catholic. Members of the School Board described the depth and detail of School Board discussions on these issues.

**COMMITTEE LIAISON UPDATES:** *Website* continues to develop, with a Life Teen section in the works. *Collaboration with St. Roberts* will review what programs are already in place at each parish. *Adult Formation* is active with good attendance at several joint programs coordinated by Dan Hull. *School Bd* reports \$48k collected towards \$50k annual goal, with 68% of school families participating. Plus, there will be three open seats to fill for next year's School Board.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** None

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Hogan

**BLURB FOR THE BULLETIN:**

The Parish Council discussed several core budget issues and then voted unanimously to recommend the proposed budget to Father Dennis with no changes. School Principal Angela Little provided an update on the school with detailed remarks about enrollment, development, academics, faith formation, community building, and technology. She described how the school is carrying out this year's theme of *Make God's World a Better Place*. In addition, the Council discussed two chapters in *The Holy Longing*, heard several committee liaison reports, and reviewed progress towards Council goals for this year.