

Holy Family and St. Robert Parish Councils
Joint Meeting
Preliminary Minutes
November 24, 2009, 6:30 P.M.
St. Robert School Meeting Room

St. Robert Members Present: Father Dennis, Father Robert, Lisa LaVine, Greg Kaftan, Deb Scheid, Lorre Inda, Margaret Sankovitz, Kathy Wyatt, Mary Linn, Adam Kessenich, Chris Schorse, Rob Frediani, Nancy Knight, Joe O'Neil

Holy Family Members Present: Father Dennis, Father Robert, Kevin Long, Tom Gaeta, Lucia Korom, Matthew Demet, Penny Kelsey, David Schulz, Pam Ringsred, Claire Wycklendt, Mike Beuche

Members Excused: Pat Koppa, Jim Pondel

Guests: Claire Anderson, Ben Wolf, Andy Vaughn, Elizabeth Cleveland, Gail DeFrancisco, Harriet Lazinski, Donna Shriner

1. Opening Prayer – Kathy Wyatt
2. Scripture Reflection – Rob Frediani led us in a reflection of LK 21:25-28, 34-36
3. Agenda approved
4. Shared Staff Reports

Minister of Pastoral Care – Father Robert shared the terrible news that Cathy Presti, the Minister of Pastoral Care, has had a brain aneurism. She is in the hospital and a prayer chain is going for her. Her condition is critical. Father Robert led the group in a prayer on her behalf.

RCIA Coordinator – Donna Shriner reflected on how the past year has gone in her role serving both parishes. She discussed how the various RCIA events are held alternating between both parishes. The rite of acceptance and welcoming are celebrated at each parish, and candidates are initiated at the Easter Vigil of their respective parish. This year there are 11 people going thru the RCIA process all of whom are from St. Robert. The program will still be held the same way as last year with events alternating between both parishes to provide equal visibility. Donna felt the imbalance of candidates has a lot to do with St. Robert's location at the edge of Milwaukee. More marriages are conducted at St. Robert as well and they are often a catalyst for the RCIA process. Donna has found it very easy to collaborate with both parishes and there have been no issues. A discussion ensued whether there was any way to effectively target more people for the RCIA process. Donna is open to any ideas on this topic but has found historically that people need to be moved by the holy spirit and seek the RCIA process themselves. Proactively targeting people going through the marriage process for example, can lead to hurt feelings.

Youth Ministry Coordinator – Ben Wolf reflected on his experience serving both parishes. He started by recruiting adult volunteers and seniors to work with the kids. He started "Walking with Jesus" for 9th and 10th graders and organized a

Confirmation program for Juniors. Everyone has been gathering for the Life Teen Mass which was held this fall at Holy Family and will be held in the Spring at St. Robert during the 5:30pm Mass. A retreat was held at St. Robert with 40 Holy Family and 30 St. Robert kids in attendance. They have been doing Life Teen at Holy Family for 10 years and he is working on familiarizing St. Robert parishioners with the concept. On average there are 100 teens present and they meet approximately two times a month. Right now the Confirmation Mass will be held on a Monday evening but Ben is going to talk to the Archbishop's office to see if it can be moved to a weekend.

Director of Religious Education – Gail DeFrancisco reflected on her experience serving both parishes. She discussed how next year St. Robert will have a K3 and K4 religious ed. program. The idea is to have the program during 11:00am Mass. It will be a maximum of 12 kids. Gail said that Lorre Inda and Betsy Deakin have been instrumental in helping her manage both programs. They have been there to open and close doors, etc. For 7th and 8th graders the “Edge” program was started again this year. There are 120 students in religious ed. at St. Robert and 220 students at Holy Family. For 2nd graders the program covers sacramental preparation. There is a large 1st grade class at St. Robert and next year this class will be split into two sections due to it's size.

Business Manager – Elizabeth Cleveland reflected on her experience serving both parishes. She started in this capacity two months into the fiscal year. She discussed how it is slowly coming together but that it has been a challenge. A new office person has been hired at St. Robert and that is providing much needed assistance. The biggest challenge she faces is that she can't access the records of both parishes from each location. One parish uses Peach Tree for accounting and the other Parish uses Shelby. A discussion ensued regarding how access to both systems might be achieved. Joe O'Neil offered the assistance of the finance committee at St. Robert if Elizabeth would like someone to investigate how to reconcile the records accessibility issue. Elizabeth said she would let him know if she would like the help.

Father Dennis and Father Robert – Father Robert began the discussion by saying how rewarding it has been serving both parishes. The biggest challenge so far has been balancing his focus 50/50 between the two parishes and still getting his outreach work in. For the most part it works well. He and Father Dennis cover for each other for funerals, retreat time, etc. and in that regard it has been very beneficial having two priests. One issue that has cropped up is that staff and parishioners are not feeding the same info to both priests. This has created a bit of a “disconnect” and the two priests have decided to resolve it by running all decisions past each other before making commitments. So Father Robert might say, “Let me talk to Father Dennis and get back to you. “ and vice versa. This way both priests have knowledge of what is going on and have input into decisions.

Father Dennis next added his comments. He has made Claire the point person for the day-to-day stuff at St. Robert and Father Robert the point person for the day-to-day stuff at Holy Family. It has been a struggle to maintain a presence at both parishes and so recently Father Dennis has committed to do 3 masses at each

parish two times a month. Every other weekend he presides over the Masses at each Parish. Father Dennis is attending the Ministry Team meeting and is having Claire and Father Robert attend several other meetings on his behalf. This seems to be working well.

5. Joint Meeting adjourned – Hospitality was served and then the respective Parish Councils met separately.
6. Closing Prayer – Lisa LaVine

HOLY FAMILY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – November 23, 2009

PRIOR MINUTES: The October minutes were approved.

FINANCE UPDATE: Kevin gave the following report: the plan is to have a cash balance of \$300,000 by year end; it currently is \$150,000. There is a \$30,000 roof repair, done in October, which is not accounted for in the budget. The stewardship numbers are trending up in September and October. The stewardship witness talks were well received. To date 135 pledge cards totaling \$234,203 have been received. The stewardship committee is planning a more vigorous follow up for those who haven't returned their pledge cards.

ORGAN AND ACOUSTICS: The company we have contracted with has made adjustments to the sound system which seem to have made a major improvement in parishioners ability to hear the spoken word in our worship space. There does still appear to be one dead spot in the very middle of the church. Fr. Robert continues to work on making his microphone more user friendly.

The organ discussion centered on whether the council could offer their consensus on the planned expenditure of \$85,000 for the organ. While we have designated FIOF funds for this purpose, those funds have not yet been fully collected and the cost estimate is now greater than the funds allotted from FIOF. Due to time constraints, this matter will be taken up at the December council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucia Korom

BLURB FOR THE BULLETIN:

The Parish Council held a combined meeting with the council from St. Robert's. Our shared staff members Donna Shriner (RCIA), Ben Wolf (Youth Ministry), Gail DeFrancisco (Director of Religious Education), and Elizabeth Cleveland (Business Manager) and Fathers Robert and Dennis discussed their ministries and how the shared ministry concept was working for them. The individual councils then met and we heard a financial update and continued the discussion of the church acoustics and organ.