

HOLY FAMILY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – October 28, 2009

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

HOUSEKEEPING: The Sept 09 minutes were approved as amended.

CHURCH ACOUSTICS AND NEW ORGAN: Rick Domach reports that several initial and cost effective strategies have been put in place to improve church acoustics as a result of some recent outside consulting services. A large big improvement might already be noticeable as early as this weekend, with the caveat that fine-tuning various controls and speakers in an empty church (the most challenging situation in terms of acoustics management) may not translate perfectly on the first attempt to a church with parishioners in attendance. Further possible steps include installing sound absorbers on the back walls. Council discussion focused on how to make sure that parishioners know about this progress and understand that it is a top priority for the Council this year, and also for the Council to get feedback from parishioners on perceived progress. The decision is for the presider to consider making a comment a week from now and to put a notice in the bulletin week after next. This seems to be a reasonable balance between keeping parishioners informed and giving the new improvements a chance simply to be heard. (New organ discussion postponed until Father Robert can be in attendance.)

MEET THE STAFF –GREG KELSCH: Greg discussed three potential initiatives under consideration for energizing parish life. The first is the CRHPP “chirp” lay-oriented retreat for which there was not enough interest to hold a retreat immediately but for which a core group has been established and which continues to work. (There are about 1000 parishes nationally involved in this effort. The goal is to host separate retreats for men and women in the parish, each with a mix of age and experience. Each retreat runs from Saturday morning to Sunday at 4:30. Prior retreat attendees then support the next retreat, so that soon there are many parishioners involved.) The second idea under review is to focus on developing the Adult Formation committee within the parish. The third idea is a parish wide Mass in the gym with the stated intention of praying together for the well-being of the parish and with participation by many groups from throughout the parish. This idea was forwarded to the Council from the Stewardship committee. The Council endorses the idea and will work with Greg to solicit participation from many parishioners for a potential parish-wide Mass held likely at the beginning of Lent and perhaps even with an associated pot-luck.

FINANCE: Kevin Long reviewed year-to-date financial data distributed to the Council members for their review. A recent favorable trend is an upward tick in stewardship numbers, leading to the possibility that the Thanksgiving collections might maintain that momentum.

PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AT THE PARISH STEWARDSHIP FAIR: Participation in this event is important for the Council as well as for each group in the parish. The fair will be in the school cafeteria, Friday, November 13th, 5:30-8:30.

2009-2010 PARISH COUNCIL GOALS UPDATE: A.) *Coordinate closely with the Stewardship Committee to increase parish wide giving to meet or exceed budget.* The Council made plans for the 11/12 call night. B.) *Provide at least quarterly YTD financial summary to parishioners.* A quarterly summary will be posted on the website, with a notice of that posting in the bulletin. C.) *Assess parishioner perception of HF through surveys or other means.* The Council discussed preliminary results of a recent survey. See below. D. *Work to improve the*

sound system of HF. Discussion focused on being sure that parishioners see progress and also the Council's focus on the issue as a top priority.

Survey: The recent survey produced 282 responses giving HF an average 8.4 on a 10-point scale for the question: Would you recommend HF to a friend? For parishioners who have been members of HF for more than ten years, the average membership is 21 years. These are the early preliminary results. A full review of the survey once complete will be provided in the bulletin.

FORMATION: Discussion of Chapter 8 of The Holy Longing. The Council was moved by the chapter's discussion of the difference between social justice and charity, and focused in particular on the quote that there can be no spiritual health for individuals or for a group without engagement with the poor.

COMMITTEE LIAISON UPDATES: *School Bd:* The strategic plan was approved by the school board and Father Dennis. Recruitment efforts continue, especially for the 4-year old class. Pat Koppa surfaced several issues for the Council's attention. In school board conversations and in a recent school meeting with 65 of the 100 or so families in attendance it became clear that parishioners would appreciate more information on such issues as what we are doing about Mass attendance, what is going on with the FIOF campaign, and what about the repair of the boiler. The school board expressed interest in hearing directly from Rick Domach but also may not be aware that Rick's efforts are on a volunteer basis and that an improved repair and maintenance plan for the heating system is underway. Another idea for Stewardship to consider is that we may not be asking families to volunteer until they actually have children in the school and is this policy we want.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Father Dennis commented on the recent successful overnight confirmation retreat at St.R's with 49 participants drawn from HF and St.Rs. Father Dennis also chaired the first meeting of his Ministry Team, with participants drawn from both parishes in order to focus on big picture planning and, in the most recent meeting, also on the agenda for the upcoming joint Parish Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Hogan

BLURB FOR THE BULLETIN:

The Parish Council heard about some exciting new work on the sound system and planned how to convey this information to the parish and how to measure progress towards the top priority of improving church acoustics. The Council also considered several new initiatives for parish life, including the possibility of a parish-wide Mass in early Lent to pray together for the well-being of our parish. In addition, the Council heard several committee updates, discussed Chapter 8 of The Holy Longing, and made plans for upcoming stewardship events.