

HOLY FAMILY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – September 24th, 2008

PRESENT: Father Dennis, Father Robert, Phil Behling, Mike Lynett, Kevin Long, Mark Hirschmann, Harriet Lazinski, Dave Schulz, Mike Beuche. Pam Ringsred, Paula Hogan, Claire Wycklendt, Penny Kelsey Tom Gaeta, Lucia Korom, Stacy Ward, Tony Monfre **ABSENT:** 0

PRIOR MINUTES: The June 2008 minutes were approved.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITION, HOUSEKEEPING: After general introductions and volunteer recognition, Mike Lynett set the tone for the new year by asking for notice when members are absent, respect for volunteer's time, and good staff relations. Penny and Tom described the training session for new council members as being a reaffirmation of what they already knew and a good opportunity to meet members from other parishes.

REVIEW OF BYLAWS/CONSTITUTION/PARISH COUNCIL MANUAL: Dave S. summarized bylaws. Pam R. summarized the constitution, and Mike L reviewed the Parish Council manual. It was noted for future editing that Article 3 Sec 1 of the Bylaws and Article IV Sec 3 of the Constitution list a different process for electing/discerning new council members.

FINANCE UPDATE: Tony presented parish financial statements for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2008 and also for the month July and in doing so provided a heads up that our focusing on stewardship is now very important. As background, the parish has no debt, strong reserves, and well managed expenses and so in one sense is well positioned financially. However, income at this time needs to increase in order to avoid deficit financing in the future. Particularly challenging for cash flow management in the prior year was incorporating the new participation coordinator position, picking up the half of the Life Teen budget formerly paid by St Monica's, coping with unusually high snow removal bills, and operating without a functioning stewardship committee. While current stewardship levels are good, they are trending down. There was also discussion about the pros and cons of freezing discretionary spending and delaying non-essential maintenance expenses until cash flow eases. Father Dennis suggested and the Council supports the idea of his making our financial situation known to parishioners, perhaps at a presentation at Mass, and for sure in conjunction with the FIOF campaign. (The new positions are in this year's budget and there may be an opportunity to share Life Teen expenses with St. Robert's.) Kevin made a strong statement that this is a time for demonstrating confidence and for making the case to the parish community for being a bigger and financially stronger parish. ...

BOOK FOR THIS YEAR: This year's book suggested by Father Dennis is: *The Holy Longing* by Ronald Rolheiser. Please read pages 1-19 for next meeting.

2008-2009 PARISH COUNCIL GOALS: After discussion, the Council voted to work towards the following goals this year (and names in () will lead Meeting discussions on these topics throughout the year): Reconstitute an effective Stewardship Committee. (Councilor Dave S.) Work with Staff to form an Evangelization Committee. (Father Dennis will designate a Staff member to lead this effort.) Monitor Progress in FIOF Campaign (FIOF is led by Trustees Kevin and Claire.) Monitor progress towards the 2007-08 goals of increasing Mass attendance and volunteer participation. (All) Monitor transition to new shared pastoral arrangement. (Councilor Behling)

TRANSITION TEAM ACTIVITY UPDATE: Father Dennis is exploring the possibility of a farewell party for Father Laurin. A Mass was offered for Father Laurin on August 25, in Thanksgiving for his service and as a prayer for his return to good health.

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN: The Council voted to recommend acceptance of the draft Holy Family case statement, i.e. to support a New Heating System (\$550,000), liturgical enhancements, specifically church organ, piano, sound system (\$125,000), Life Long Faith Formation (\$75,000) with excess over these amounts to replenish reserves and endowments and/or physical plant improvements. ..

LITURGY QUALITY UPDATE: Orientation sessions for Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors were held recently with good success.

VOLUNTEER ACCOUNTABILITY: Omitted from agenda by consensus

COMMITTEE LIAISON UPDATES: *RE* has a new brochure, 210 students, and sufficient catechists but needs Liturgy of the Word leaders. There is a kids' component of the FIOF campaign. *Website* communication and implementation is improving. *P&W* discussed a procedure for temporary performance of sacristan duties. *Staff* is "obviously passionate about their ministry". *Sch Bd* reports a theme for the school this year of *Make God's World A Better Place*, with emphasis on increased student service endeavors. Dinner dance is Feb 21 this year. Recruitment efforts going well.

MISCELANNEOUS: *Respect Life Month:* Father Dennis approved \$600 for billboard contribution at the Council's request. *Joint Parish Council Meetings* with St Robert's are on 11/25 and 2/24. ..

PASTOR'S REPORT: Father Dennis gave thanks for his recent installation and reports the shared pastor arrangement is going well. He also confirmed the importance of our focusing on stewardship at this time and suggests an annual collaborative celebration of our Catholic identity for an evangelization effort, using the recent celebration at St Robert's as a model.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Hogan

BLURB FOR THE BULLETIN:

The Parish Council reviewed current finances and planned for an increased focus on stewardship and on the Faith in Our Future campaign. In addition to hearing several committee reports, the Council approved the following goals for itself for the coming year: Reconstitute an effective Stewardship Committee. Work with Staff to form an Evangelization Committee.. Monitor the progress of the Faith in Our Future campaign.. Monitor Progress towards last year's goals of Increasing Mass Attendance and Volunteer Participation.. Monitor the transition to the new pastoral arrangement.