

HOLY FAMILY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – September 23rd 2009

PRESENT: Father Dennis, Mike Beuche, Harriet Lazinski, Dave Schulz. Pam Ringsred, Paula Hogan, Claire Wycklendt, Penny Kelsey, , Tom Gaeta, , Father Robert, Lucia Korom, Matt Demet, Jim Pondel, Pat Koppa, Ann Frigo, Rick Domach, Andy Vaughn Elizabeth Cleveland

ABSENT: Kevin Long

HOUSEKEEPING: The June 09 minutes were approved as amended.

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE FUNDS: A targeted use of these funds is liturgical enhancement and in particular repair of the ongoing acoustics problem and of the organ. Andy Vaughn explained that the organ is now broken beyond cost effective repair. The most cost effective, long-term solution is to purchase a pipe organ and move away from the previous combined electronic/pipe instrument. The initial estimated cost is \$85k, an amount already on deposit in our FIOF account. The Council voted unanimously to move forward with the several week approval process for this purchase, but to table the actual approval decision until the next meeting. At that time, there will likely be a recommendation and cost estimate for addressing the top priority issue of church acoustics. (Andy and Rick Domack explained that the acoustic problem is not the sound system but instead the church space. An effective solution might involve padded pews, wall hangings and/or panels to fix how sound is bouncing around the church. The sound system itself is working.) The Council places top priority on fixing the acoustics and wants to coordinate that priority with the purchase of the organ.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Ann Frigo reports that the newly reconstituted Stewardship Committee that she chairs now has five subcommittees: Time & Talent, Stewardship (Pledges), Stewardship (Formation), Long Term Stewardship (e.g. under estate plans), and Welcoming Committee. Stewardship Sunday is 11/7. The previous Friday Fish Fry event for Time & Talent might change to an event after Mass and the T&T form will be streamlined. The Stewardship Committee asks for a survey of parishioners to better understand stewardship decisions. The Council thanked Ann for leading this Stewardship effort.

FINANCE: Elizabeth Cleveland, the business manager serving St Robert's and now Holy Family as well, presented current financial data. The Council supported Elizabeth's suggestion for more streamlined financial reports and also asked for cash flow data to be presented routinely. Elizabeth is in the midst of taking over the financial reporting for HF, including learning our accounting system. On the current financials, she pointed out that Weekly Parish Support is already less than budgeted for the new fiscal year. Other meaningful budget variances included higher than expected administrative expense (due to back vacation pay for departing staff) and summer cleaning help for the school.

2009-2010 PARISH COUNCIL GOALS: The Council discussed the top four Council goals for the year: **Working with Stewardship Committee to increase parish wide giving, **Providing at least quarterly financial summary of YTD operations to parishioners, **Assessing the vibrancy of various areas of parish life , and **Improving church acoustics.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF VIBRANT PARISH ARTICLE: The Council used a recent newspaper article as a base for brainstorming about a parish-wide survey. Tom, Claire, and Jim will prepare a draft survey reflecting Council discussion in time for the October Stewardship Committee meeting. Ideas to consider include: **the power of asking just this one question: *Would you recommend HF to a friend, why or why not?*, **the potential for generic demographic information to make the data actionable, e.g. requesting information on sex, age,

kind of family unit, and year as parish member, **the need to incorporate questions forwarded from the Stewardship Committee, ** the need to write questions which reference individual, personal experience, **a ranking system that includes 0-10. The survey might be distributed and returned during a Mass in which the homily might also be coordinated with the survey.

COMMITTEE LIAISON UPDATES: Matt Demet provided an update on the parish website which is growing stronger. P&W wants to hang banners but this is not logistically possible at this time. Bldg & Grds investigates an organ purchase, and is soliciting professional advice about space-related acoustics issues, and is extending the life of the heating system with steam trap maintenance.

FORMATION: Discussion of Chapter 8 of The Holy Longing – postponed.

PASTOR'S REPORT: None for this meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Hogan

BLURB FOR THE BULLETIN:

The Parish Council considered various ideas for addressing the high priority of improving church acoustics and the repair/replacement of the organ. In addition, the Council discussed plans for an upcoming parishioner survey and heard a financial update from Elizabeth Cleveland, our new business manager whom we now share with St. Robert's. Committee reports included an update on what's new with the website and with the maintenance on the heating system.