

I. Paul Pierce called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

II. Prayer – Father Vern

III. Agenda Items

A. Acceptance of Pastoral Council Minutes

Motion to accept: Pat Crosby

Seconded: David Adams

B. Review Agenda, Calendar

We did also have a motion to accept the agenda; it was seconded and passed.

C. Commission Reports

1. Communications

--working on the council recruitment process; more on that later

--working on the parish directory photo sign-up, too (more on that later, too)

2. Faith Development

--social justice workshop a success; an average of 10 people per session attended and people responded to the sessions positively.

3. Family Life

-- cancer support group now serves one man and two women with cancer.

--the council supported Beth Buczko's plan to go ahead and invite the local American Cancer Society's makeover offer (tips on makeup, wigs, etc.)—for up to 10 participants. She will put flyers at Wing and Mary Lane hospitals.

--Beth also suggested starting a good Samaritan initiative: volunteers who can help out those in need by grocery shopping for them (if they are old, alone, and ill, for example, and can't get out) or by taking them to doctor's appointments. The council supported this; Fr. Vern will mention it in the bulletin.

--Beth also mentioned a particular woman, suffering from cancer and in financial need, who needs transportation to Worcester for radiation therapy. A number of leads for financial help and transportation help were mentioned (a town fund, Catholic Charities, etc.). Fr. Vern suggested again that when special needs like this arise, it might be possible to draw on some of the Food Pantry money.

4. Hospitality

--72 people are currently signed up for the Holy Thursday potluck (a large number!)

5. Spiritual Life

--mission went well; good attendance.

6. Vocations

-- Fr. Dailey met with Rita Gallagher and Carla Dell'Olio: St. Francis Parish is especially attentive to the seminarians.

--Three Polish seminarians do not have working visas, so have no spending money—in special need of support.

IV. Old Business

A. Monument to the Unborn

- will go with Notre Dame Memorials, who will set it up for free
- Gerry and Sam will prepare ground
- pink granite bench, white marble chips around it
- \$1,000 for bench; \$5/letter for inscription
- sona tubes; care must be taken of underground water pipes, etc.

B. Recruitment Process for Pastoral Council

- Scheduling change: bulletin insert explaining new process will go out weekend of May 2-3; invitations to volunteer will be handed out May 9-10.
- Schedule for commissions to present on what they do has also been altered:
 - April 18-19: Communications, Family Life
 - April 25-26: Hospitality, Vocations
 - May 2-3: Spiritual Life, Faith Development

C. Parish Directory

- Families can submit their own photos for two weeks after the last scheduled photo sessions (i.e., until May 18); photo should be 2 megs or so.
- Communications Commission would like help for the days family photos are scheduled to be taken (April 21, 22, 23, 24, 25; May 4, 5, 6)
- Ray Fontaine showed sample images of St. Francis that can be used as the model for the composite image (made of individual family portraits): they will be set out so parish can choose one.

D. New Rectory

- Fr. Vern met with the diocesan building coordinator—meeting was good.
- the fact that there's no architect and therefore no architect's stamp on the plans is not a problem because the rectory counts as a personal dwelling.
- Paul Adzima (town zoning enforcement officer) said that the roof needs to have its bearing load increased and wondered if having another priest living in the rectory would change the nature of the dwelling, but basically said there would be no problem.
- Fr. Vern would like there to be a basement if at all possible, for storage.
- Announcement of rectory will be in Easter Sunday bulletin; any bonded and insured local contractors can bid. (Non-union contractors are okay.)
- Fr. Vern will do much of the finish work himself, is holding fundraising suppers to pay for appliances.

V. New Business

A. Concert by and for Seminarians

- under discussion
- possibly to be held at high school.
- possibly have a Christian rock band perform

B. Concert by Dan Kane Singers

- After discussion, the council agreed that this involved too much planning and risk of not enough turnout to justify having all 100-plus Dan Kane singers perform as a fundraiser.

--We may try, at some later date, to have just a small group of them come to perform.

C. Finance Report (Stan Wyman)

--Building fund is fine

--Operating fund is not so fine:

Although we took in 10% more money from July 08 through March 09, we spent 17% more in that same period.

D. Deanery Council Representative Report (Everett Hume)

--Met with the bishop; talked about a "Christ Mass" to be held near Christmas and about a new method of communicating with members of the diocese.

VI. Topics for next meeting

--New commission members

--Generations of Faith theme for next year.

VII. Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

The next meeting will be on May 5.