

**CHURCH OF SAINT MARY
PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES: TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Dale Julius. Fr. Tom led the Council with the Parish Stewardship Prayer.

Members present: Dennis Boyenga, Cathy Lewis, Dale Julius, Tom Jenniges. Absent (excused): John Reiter, Mary Kay Fischenich, Mike Lewis, Mary McLaughlin. Also present: Dan Lorang for the Finance Council and Bill Deutsch as Resource Person.

The Council approved the minutes of the August 11, 2008 meeting and approved the agenda with an addition to New Business: Broadcast TV Mass; to Old Business: Roof Flashing.

Old Business:

1. Status of Funding for Restoration Project: Dan reported that \$14,452.73 is due on the diocesan loan in monthly payments. The office is sending out this week reminder letters to those who have a balance due on their pledges. The Council endorsed the proposal of the Finance Council to begin a weekly second collection for the debt. Overall, the parishioners are responding strongly to finish payment of the loan.
2. Handicapped Accessibility of Our Facility: The Council continues to explore options: elevator, lift, ramp, etc. Cathy and Dan are working directly on this and will report their findings at the next meeting.
3. Roof Flashing: Dennis reported that the piece blown away in the wind will be taken care of by Ken Huisman.

New Business:

1. July Picnic and Mass: The Council has received no input on a proposal to have Mass in the Park with the Picnic in July. In this idea, Mass would be at noon in the shelter followed immediately by the picnic meal. Parish input will be sought.
2. Painting Church Interior: The Council will ask for input on a proposal to continue painting the interior like the entrance areas are painted white.
3. Parish Archives: Fr. Tom presented an over-view of the artifacts in storage in the choir loft, many of which are very valuable and, in his mind, should be brought out from storage to beautify and enrich the Church environment—set of stations, statues, sacred vessels and furnishings, KC things, parish and school records and photo albums, old school altar, etc. He proposed an archive display area in the west wall of Redder Hall, erecting the old stations with rededication on Palm Sunday or Good Friday, and more. The Council suggested that Fr. Tom present ideas to the whole parish and invite input and response for the Council to consider.
4. Stewardship Council: The Council endorsed, along with Finance Council endorsement, the proposal that SM join with SC to form one Stewardship Council to monitor and advise on issues of stewardship of time, talent and treasure. The Council suggested some names to contact for membership on the new group.
5. Pastoral Council Elections: Two positions become open for the election in May: that of Mary Kay Fischenich and Dale Julius. Both are completing their first terms and therefore are eligible for re-election. The Council will organize the nominations and then the election process.
6. Broadcast TV Mass: The Council agreed that the parish make a donation to the city for the upgrade in equipment for the local cable channel.

Reports

1. Faith Formation (Youth and Adult): Cathy announced that 2 First Communicants (Kade and Sean Boltjes) will be honored at the KC Breakfast on May 3. The RCIA members (Janelle Benson and

Sarah Deutsch) will be welcomed at the event also. The Council acknowledged that options for Faith Formation will have to be addressed as the number of available Catechists diminishes. SM will host Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30.

2. Finance Council: Dan presented the minutes of recent meetings and answered questions. Installing new energy-saving lighting in Redder Hall is being studied.
3. Liturgy: ECCW will prepare for a wider selection of server garbs. New green, purple and red vestment sets are needed.
4. Knights of Columbus: The annual pancake feed will be April 19, 9 am to noon.
5. ECCW: The Soup and Desert event last Sunday went very well. Receipts totaled more than \$750 and expenses were about \$60. Forty-five people participated in World Day of Prayer at Bethel Church.
6. Social Ministry: Fr. Tom presented minutes from recent meetings. The Council agreed to set up a gathering basket for donations of food and cash for the Nobles County Food Shelf. Bill Deutsch will oversee this and make sure the gifts are delivered to Worthington. The Council decided to invite Nicole Paladie for a parish presentation on "Bread of Life," the new feeding ministry in Worthington, and how SM can be involved.
7. Administrator: Fr. Tom reported for Mary McLaughlin about letters for parishioners with a balance on their building pledge, study of energy-saving lighting for Redder Hall, and possibility of creating a brochure of gift ideas for the parish. The Council endorsed the gift brochure idea.
8. Pastor: Fr. Tom proposed Sunday ministry to PVM for Holy Communion. The Council agreed. He distributed a handout on the revised diocesan program for lay ministry formation. The Council decided to fund, along with SC, a candidate for permanent diaconate (from Seeds of Faith). The pastor told the Council that he and Dick Smook will participate in a workshop in Marshall for ministry to military families and veterans. The Council agreed to begin study of the Bishops' pastoral letter, "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response." The Council was shown a gift set of 15 saints' relics in a framed box created originally by Father Andrew Bofenkamp, originally from SM, Ellsworth. The gift is given to SM from the family of Catherine Dibbern, resident at PVM and sister of Fr. Bofenkamp. This could be placed in the archive display if the parish decides to do so.

The next regular meeting of the Council will be in June, 2009.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. Tom, substitute secretary