

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council

October 12, 2009 Minutes

Attendees: Fr. John Fischer, Deacon Ken DeHanes, Brian Bisig, Lori Ann Fothergill, Scott Hungler, Tom Jansing, Brenda Kuhr & Jason Sauer

Fr. John presented his pastor's report. The sabbatical is scheduled for January, February and March 2010. All sacramental scheduling is completed. Fr. Len Fecko is expected to be assigned by the Archbishop to be our Administrator in Fr. John's absence. Fr. Kroger is no longer helping at the parish. Fr. Norm Langenbrunner and Fr. Bill Wysong will be stepping in as needed.

Fr. John reported that in our Archdiocese, 70 pastors will become retirement age in the next 2 ½ years. By 2014, that number is 88. By 2017, it is 107 pastors. The need for more priests is obvious.

The local funeral home is having a high rate of personnel turnover. This is creating some communication problems with the church. Saturdays are not ideal for funerals because it is difficult to schedule a priest.

Fr. John will be participating in a new national program for priests called Good Leaders and Good Shepherds. It is a 2 ½ year program that will begin in December.

Fr. John answered questions about his sabbatical and his classes.

Attendance of our meetings has been difficult for some of the staff. Therefore it has been decided that if a staff member supplies his/her report two weeks in advance, he/she may be excused from the meeting. This should give sufficient time for questions to be addressed. However, Fr. John requested that at least two members of staff attend each meeting.

Deacon Ken gave his report. He clarified the numbers of participants for the RCIA program which show pretty average membership. The Adult Formation Team consists of five members in addition to Deacon Ken. It is an ad hoc committee separate from Education Commission.

We may have to schedule more classes for the Decree on Child Protection because of demand.

Brian reported that we have 24 new altar servers to be trained. He is pleased with the current level of interest.

We discussed the field mass. Everyone was pleased with the numbers and the wide range of parishioners attending. Tom asked if we should do events such as this on a more regular basis. Brian wondered if it would be better on a Sunday than a Saturday.

Brian reported that thanks to our archivist, there will be some displays for the anniversary in the gathering space. The archivist has been supplying Brian with information to print in the bulletin.

Scott passed the financial report. He reported that the capital campaign is not showing progress. The finance committee is investigating using a fundraising company. If nothing is done, we will exceed the timeline set by the Archdiocese.

Scott also reported that since this was the school's third lightning strike, our insurance company will no longer cover lightning strikes.

Lori Anne reported that there are fewer teachers for REP, but we are making do. She explained the "Pennies for Pigs" challenge which allows the REP students to contribute toward the festival. This is another way to bridge the gap between REP and day school students. She also commended Jody Farrell for supplying the "Partners in Faith" sheets given to the day student families for the REP families.

We discussed the 90th anniversary mass. There are seven priests expected to attend. Each will be introduced at Mass and then given 4-5 minutes to talk at the reception. We will try to build excitement to let parishioners know what to expect.

Old business was shelved because so many members are missing from the meeting. This includes improving communication, leadership day, discernment, and filling our position of secretary.

Jason reminded us that he should get reports two weeks before our next meeting. All questions and answers should funnel through him.

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for December 14. The meeting will begin at 8:00. There is no Evensong that night.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Kuhr