

St. Mark Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes † Cinco de Mayo, 2009

In Attendance: Tom Donahue, Eileen Gallagher, Rick Bonen-Clark, Kim Antolini, Scott Campbell, Dennis Coleman, Mark Conter, Lisa Strickland, Ralph Wearsch, Lizzie Espendez, Tom Rider, Msgr. Richard Bellow, Father Pat Hoare, Deacon Robert Murphy, Deacon Louis Pais, and Deacon Ron Sherwood

Excused: Arthur Packard, Theresa Rouse

Guests: Ron Charbonneau, Alex Sabo, Nancy Thibadeau, Chuck Chrimes

Tom Donahue welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Construction Update: Although the construction team is within its budget, the schedule is delayed approximately 1 month from the original plan. The certificate of occupancy is expected in mid-August, approximately one week prior to the dedication. The construction team is taking a number of measures to accelerate the building process, including increased frequency of project management meetings. Memorialized bricks have been very popular within the parish. Over 700 bricks have been memorialized, raising over \$70,000 to the new church.

Minutes: The April 14, 2009 meeting minutes were approved.

Commissions:

Heather Bellemore will be taking over the Communications Commission from Greg Scharlemann and will attend the Pastoral Council retreat in June. Dick Christian will be looking for an increase in the number of liturgical ministers after moving into the new church. The Community Life Commission is still looking for project leaders for the Community Outreach Day. Some discussion ensued on how to handle requests for additional ministries, in particular, ministries that would fall under the Community Life Commission. As new ministry ideas are brought forward, the person with the idea is requested to get the ministry started by finding sufficient volunteers to administer the ministry. The Stewardship Commission will begin work organizing Commitment Sunday for Autumn 2009. Rosemary Keeley, the new leader of the Living Your Strengths (LYS) program started small group sessions and will continue to spread the program through small group sessions as well as in the RCIA program. Rose Mary will meet with the Pastoral Council in September to discuss a more aggressive strategy for sharing LYS with members of the parish. Pastoral Council members were reminded that the LYS team is maintaining the strengths database for all parishioners who have taken the test/course. The next commission heads meeting will be on May 26, 2009.

Goals and Objectives Review:

Discernment - Planning is underway for the May 30, 2009 Day of Discernment. The discerning candidates were in attendance at the May 5, 2009 Pastoral Council meeting.

St. Mark Learning Center - On May 18, 2009, the St. Mark Learning Center facilitators will meet with the adult education commission and Donna Smith, director of Religious Education on the parish staff.

Parish to the People - The bulletin publishing ministry is still looking for 2 volunteers to support the publishing process.

Prayerful Reflection: The prayerful reflection was led by Scott Campbell.

Vision/Brainstorming:

At the executive retreat, all brainstorming ideas were assessed. Several themes were drawn, from which the executive committee established G&Os for 2009-2010. These will be on the agenda for the parish retreat, June 6, 2009.

Old Business/Updates:

Church dedication - The preparations are on track. The Knights of Columbus will handle parking; however, there will be no offsite parking and/or shuttle service offered.

The Pastoral Council retreat on June 6, 2009 starts at 8.30AM with the Community Outreach Day's pancake breakfast. The meeting will start at 9.30AM and will end at approximately 3PM.

The Pastoral Council Hail & Farewell will also be held on June 6, 2009 in the evening.

Members were reminded to RSVP for the volunteer reception to Phyllis Kiebler.

New Business/Updates:

On the feast of Corpus Christi, the Parish will begin a new tradition. A procession will be held after the 12PM Mass.

Officer Election:

Arthur Packard was elected secretary. Eileen Gallagher will be the chair and Kim Antolini will be the vice-chair.

Thank You Notes: Lisa Strickland nominated the team responsible for the new bulletin. A thank you note will be sent to Greg Scharlemann for him to share it with those directly involved with the new bulletin.

Closing Comments: Msgr. informed the PC that the Finance Committee is working on the 2009-2010 budget. It was noted that this budget will be updated for the new church operating expenses and will be presented at the July Pastoral Council meeting. There is a significant effort by all areas of the parish to hold costs to a minimum. Msgr. has been approached by a company that wants to put cell phone antennae in the new church; while this will be considered, service technicians would not be allowed access to the church during Masses and the parish cannot sacrifice its tax exempt status. The parish will request a mortgage from the diocese in the coming months for approximately \$2 million. On August 30, 2009, Bishop Curlin will celebrate Mass in the new church. A wedding coordinator has been appointed for the new church. Msgr. would like to continue Eucharistic adoration in the new church. However, because of wedding rehearsals on Friday evenings and weddings on Saturday mornings, the parish will need a different solution. Msgr. is considering hiring a vendor to create a parish album, which would include a history of the parish.

Closing Prayer: Deacon Ron led the closing prayer.