

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
May 12, 2008

	In attendance *	
Msgr. Robert Hartnett*	Jim Holder*	Debbie Ventre*
Susan Moken, President*	Conrad Gilbert*	Herb Kraft*
Donna Provost , VicePres*	James Atherton*	Henry Hemling*
Frank Schwarzman, Sect*	Liz Lehnert*	Rick Fabrizio*
Betty Kfoury*	Terry Larkins	

Susan Moken began the meeting at 7:00 with a prayer.

Pastor's Report

- Msgr. Bob reported that the Spring Festival did very well. It appears that the gross was approximately \$9,000.00 higher than last year. The net profit amount will not be known until all of the expenses have been paid.
- Sarah's Hope as an operation for the homeless women and children appears to be in jeopardy. The Saint Vincent DePaul Society is currently taking a position of withdrawing its commitment due to the fact that Baltimore County wants total control; the County wants control of money, procedures, program guides, etc. The County is preparing a proposal for bids from any organization that would like to take over and run the operation using the Baltimore County specifications. At this time it appears that the County will need to open and operate under a new name. The County intends to continue the operation as well as its facility on Back River Neck Road. Additionally, The County will provide transportation between the two facilities. The operation will continue to be sited at the Eastern Family Resource Center. The County has stated that the Saint Vincent DePaul Society raised its contract price by \$40,000.00, and that under County code such an increase requires that the operation must be advertised for bids. At this time the Community Assistance Network is continuing the operation. There is still a need for volunteers to help operate the various functions.

Our concern is that there continue to be a program to provide services to those in need. The \$250,000.00 currently provided to Saint Vincent DePaul Society would no longer be available from the county should Saint Vincent DePaul Society and the area parishes decide to continue its operation elsewhere within this area.

- Parking for church and other functions and activities is an increasing problem. The Fire Department is irritated by illegally parked cars that prevent its vehicles from gaining access to OLMC facilities. It has been indicated that the illegal parking will be reported to the County Police with a request that tickets be issued. Parking on both sides of the driveway creates the problem for emergency vehicles. The Handicap curb needs to be painted blue.

When the Old Eastern Avenue improvements are completed, there will become a greater problem because there will no parking allowed at any time on Old Eastern Avenue.

Suggestion was made (1) to have ushers watch and caution parking restriction violators about police issuing tickets and (2) placing notices on violator windshields indication "Fire Zone Violation", "Illegally Parked Vehicle", "Police will issue tickets" and "Fine is \$75.00".

- .Msgr. Bob intends to appoint two students to the Pastoral Council. I should prove to be a good experience for both the youngsters and the adult council members.
- Current financial statements were distributed; various questions were raised. Msgr. noted that utilities are the largest expense item. OLMC is currently operating at roughly \$9,000.00 under budget. "Faith Direct" is doing fairly well with 110 donors. We have approximately 740 other donors who continue to use envelopes.
- Mr. Hemling raised a question about lighting on and around the property; he will try to determine and mark those poles being responsibility of BGE. Then BGE should be notified and requested to replace/repair the lights.

Discussion

- Herb Kraft presented the Knights of Columbus report:
 1. April 20th – 7:30 a.m. Knights of Columbus had monthly Community Mass at OLMC that was well attended;
 2. April 27th – 16 Knights and 4 volunteers assembled to set-up stands for the OLMC Spring Festival. Afterwards, there was a gathering at the Council Hall for fellowship and refreshments which were provided by the Ladies Auxiliary;
 3. The Knights operated the "Big Six" wheel and assisted the Ladies Sodality Flower Wheel along with the Knights' Ladies Auxiliary;
 4. The Ladies Auxiliary also baked cakes for the Ladies Sodality Bake Sale;
 5. On Mother's Day, the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary presented Marigolds to the mothers of the parish after each Mass;
 6. The Knights will be moving forward with an election of officers in June;
 7. The Grand Knight sends his best to all as we continue to serve Our Lady of Mount Carmel, First Lady of Heaven and Earth, as her loyal Knights.
- Donna Prevost reported that we are short of candidates. There are no volunteers. Parishioners who were contacted either could not commit the time or had various reasons for not being available to serve. There was much discussion about suggested ways to solve the problem including changing the by-laws.
- Suggestion Box (Liz):
 1. One letter - reporting seeing a lady on the tabernacle side going to the altar to unplug her cell phone charger. Is church an appropriate place to charge your cell phone? Can we all do that? I cannot continue to donate money to pay for electricity so others can improperly use it.
Msgr. Bob would prefer that the suggestion box forms require a signature (or at least the name and telephone number) of the person making the suggestion or complaint so that solutions can be discussed.
 2. It has been requested that an "OUT OF ORDER" sign be placed on the outside chair lift. It has been inoperable for a long time and the cost to repair or replace or remove is prohibitive. The real problem is that it was made in Canada; and in Canada that lift does not meet standards for outdoor use, but under US standards it is acceptable for outdoor use. We secured an estimate to replace the indoor lift; that estimate was \$32,000.00; that is not acceptable within our budget.

Vocation Committee – Caroline Hemling is willing to work on the committee. Anyone willing to be party to a steering committee in setting up a Vocation Committee and program should give their name and telephone number(s) to Msgr. Bob and he will hand it over to Caroline.

The “Defibulator” issue was discussed as to liability potential. Msgr. stated that we could discuss that topic with parish legal counsel. There is a need for “CPR” retraining of ushers; the old techniques are outdated.

An issue was raised about communicants being allowed to dip the host in lieu of sipping from the Chalice. Msgr. Bob said that was no longer allowed. Intinction was allowed for a brief period, but was finally removed as an option.

Msgr. Bob stated that “Old Business” should be listed on the agenda for future meetings.

Frank Schwarzman concluded the meeting at 7:45 p.m. with a prayer.

Dates to Remember

Next Pastoral Council meeting – June 9, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center

PASTORAL COUNCIL AGENDA

**Meeting to be held on Monday, June 9, 2008
In the Parish Center at 7:00 PM**

Opening Prayer

Pastor's Report

Parish Update
Community update

Discussion

Suggestion Box (Liz)
Knights of Columbus Representative
Nominating Committee
Old business
New business

Closing Prayer