

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
September 8, 2008

In attendance *		
Msgr. Robert Hartnett*	Jim Holder	Frank Schwarzman, Sec.*
Rev. John Rapisarda*	Betty Kfoury*	Debbie Ventre, V. Pres.*
James Atherton*	Liz Lehnert*	Herb Kraft (K of C Rep)*
Conrad Gilbert, Pres.*	Donna Provost (outgoing V.P.)	Alex Brilski
James Hartman*	Gary Pryseski*	Danielle Emerson
Henry Hemling*	Joan Pryseski*	Susan Moken (outgoing Pres.)

Frank Schwarzman began the meeting at 7:00 with a prayer.

The meeting began with an election of officers. In the absence of the President and V. President, the election was conducted by the Secretary. Conrad Gilbert accepted the position as President (unopposed), Debbie Ventre was elected V. President by written ballot, and Frank Schwarzman accepted the position as Secretary (unopposed).

The meeting was continued with guidance from Conrad Gilbert as the new President.

Pastor's Report

- Alex Brilski and Danielle Emerson have both accepted position on the Parish Council. Alex has a college class Monday evenings; class is dismissed at 7:00pm which would allow him to be here by 7:30pm for some meetings. Classes conclude in December and he would then be able to attend regularly. Danielle had a family issue today, but she will be present for the next meeting.
- With regard to Child Protective Services and the self-audit by the parish of our database, we have roughly 2500 volunteers; many of those volunteers have gone through the STAND training 5 years ago and so they need to be renewed. They would not be required to view the STAND video again, but would be required to complete some paperwork again; that applies to any volunteer who has any ongoing contact with children or any significant contact with minors. We estimate that about 1000 of the 2500 require renewal processing. We have set the end of October as the annual date for compliance. We are in the process of doing the certifications now. The parish bulletin list various dates for the STAND video viewing. At the onset of the process we thought that we had all aspects of the process covered, but during the process, the Archdiocese has set forth additional requirements. Some persons who initially completed the process are missing some of those additional requirements; therefore, they may be missing some of the pieces of the puzzle. They will be caught up in the next re-registration period. The Archdiocese is doing a self-audit, and each parish is to do its own self-audit. The Archdiocese is not going to do an audit of each parish. As I look at our progress, it appears that we are in pretty good shape in meeting compliance. Some individuals have a problem with the process and some will refuse to comply; our response is that we are sorry about that, but comply or discontinue as a volunteer. We cannot dictate to the Archdiocese what the standards shall be; we simply must comply with those rules and requirements as laid down by the Archdiocese. Additionally, I personally am in favor of these steps because I want to do everything possible to eliminate the abuse of a minor. Going through the STAND process is not unreasonable when our goal is to protect children. The process has already disclosed individuals who have a history of abuse as predators; we have told them that they cannot

volunteer. Without this process we could have a predatory volunteer with access to children and that volunteer ultimately abuses children; as a matter of fact before my arrival in this parish, we had an incident of child abuse in this parish. There were 2 incidents where volunteers in this community abused minors. Any person who refuses to comply with the STAND process is referred to the Archdiocesan Office of Child Protective Services; it is their rules which set the standards. Pastoral visitor are going to have to comply with this because there is a serious concern about abuse of the elderly and sick being abused.

- Sarah's Hope – St. Vincent DePaul Society wants to locate a site and raise operating funds to continue a housing plan for the homeless. Mary Harvey has planned a meeting with local pastors to explain what is in the works as a replacement for the discontinued St Vincent DePaul operation. I hope to have additional information at our November meeting.
- Church organ – the insurance has limited us to \$25,000.00 as coverage for the damaged to the organ. After several weeks of negotiation, we were only in a position to accept the check, which we received today. We are left with three options.

1) Repair the current organ at a cost as follows:

- a) repair stops and associated parts – cost \$25,000.00;
- b) replace filaments – cost \$40,000.00;
- c) replace leather and pipes – cost \$40,000.00; and
- d) purchase a new console – cost \$40,000.00.

And we are left with an old pipe organ with repaired parts and units costing around \$145,000.00.

2) Purchase a new pipe - cost \$200,000.00 to \$250,000.00.

3) Purchase a new electronic digital organ from another parish (their cost \$130,000.00); we have negotiated a price of \$106,000.00 and have placed a refundable deposit of \$1,000.00 to hold the organ for OLMC parish. The deal also includes a 2 year interest free lease to buy for any unpaid balance. We have to commence payments 90 days after installation. We already have the \$25,000.00 insurance money toward the purchase. We will have an unpaid balance of \$81,000.00. I have already spoken to numerous parishioners about the deal and have received verbally gifts of approximately \$20,000.00. I propose approaching the parishioners with a fund raising campaign for the organ and with the explanation that any excess money raised would be used for painting the church and a new handicap lift.

There was suggestion made regard a progress thermometer and / or a plaque listing names of large donors. This was tabled pending future discussion.

Msgr. stated that the commitment is to have new organ installed by Christmas and removal of the old organ is included in the total price. He has been assured by other priest organists that even the trained ear cannot distinguish between a pipe organ and these new electronic digital organs.

Motion was made by Betty Kfoury to adopt option 3; seconded by Herb Kraft.

Motion was passed unanimously by the Council.

Vince Luce (sic) our long time maintenance man has reached age 62 and elected to retire. I have hired a replacement named chuck.

Dragon Boat races – OLMC will be the only parish related group to have an entry this year. We will be racing for benefit of Villa Maria. Races begin Saturday Sept. 13 at 8:30 am at the Inner Harbor.

Discussion

➤ Suggestion Box (Liz Lehnert):

1. Question was raised regarding a 'dress code' for Ems. Msgr. Bob said yes, and the Liturgy Committee will be issuing guidelines shortly.
2. The left door needs anew eyehook. Msgr. Bob will give note to Karen for maintenance repair.

Msgr. Bob noted that a defibulator had been donated by Dr. Meineger. The unit is secured until training has been given to appropriate individuals. Additionally, it appears that our fiscal year has ended in the black by approximately \$8,000.00; that figure is conditional upon any additional assessments which might be made by the Archdiocese, We must also note that we have not had the cost of an Associate Pastor for this past year.

➤ Herb Kraft presented the Knights of Columbus report:

1. It is my honor and privilege to represent the Knights of Columbus for another year;
2. The Knights have been very busy during the summer painting and sprucing up the hall;
3. The Knights will continue to have our Community Mass followed by the Rosary on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the 7:30 am mass;
4. There were two STAND training sessions held by the Knights and conducted by Mrs. Vicki Ruggiero; first on July 31st and again on August 14th. In these sessions 46 adults from the Scouts and 15 adults from the Knights received the required training. There will be more to come.
5. Knights will be having their Annual Crab Feast on October 12th with the proceeds going to the Parish Scholarship Fund.

Old Business:

Conrad noted that the number of votes received by candidates should not appear in the minutes.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm with a prayer by Father John.

PASTORAL COUNCIL AGENDA

Meeting to be held on Monday, September 13, 2008
In the Parish Center at 7:00 PM

	In attendance *	
Msgr. Robert Hartnett	Jim Holder	Frank Schwarzman, Sec
Rev. John Rapisarda	Betty Kfoury	Debbie Ventre, V. Pres.
James Atherton	Liz Lehnert	Herb Kraft (K of C Rep)
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Opening Prayer

Pastor's Report

Parish Update

Community update

Discussion

Suggestion Box (Liz)

Knights of Columbus Representative

Old business

New business

Closing Prayer