

St. Mary's Cathedral
 Parish Pastoral Council
 August 29, 2007

Chair: Tom Gaetz
 Recorder: Volunteered by Randy Bayerl

1.0 Call to order: 7:25 PM

1.1 Gathering Prayer – Rev. Anthony Oelrich

1.2 Roll Call

Attending:

- Susanne Owen (2009)
- Tom Gaetz (2008)
- Mike Boyle (2009)
- Judy Barthelemy (2010)
- Randy Bayerl (2010)
- Hannah Wocken (youth representative)
- (Rector) Fr. Anthony Oelrich

Absent:

- Deb Castellanos (2009)
- Ann Cofell (Trustee, and Cathedral Board Member)
- Peter Donohue (Trustee)
- Joanne Harguth
- Tim Seeman
- Karen Reisdorf
- Ed Goering
- Vonnie Ibes (2008)
- Matthew Lucas (2010)

Committee Reporting Members: Joe Ackerman

2.0 Recommended Action

2.1 Approval of Agenda – No formal agenda proposed.

2.2 Approval of Minutes – unanimous approval

3.0 Information and Proposals

3.1 Rev. Oelrich outlined Tri-Parish structure and his perspectives.

- Role of pastoral council in relation to the cluster team
- At St. Mary's we need to be and be seen as a welcoming parish
- Conceptualize ourselves as a "Tri-Parish" member
- He is very grateful for overwhelming welcome to he and Fr. Aaron (Great place to preside). Solid Liturgy.
- St. Mary's has very limited staffing, has concern not sure how to solve at this time. General outline of roles was discussed.
- School – declining enrolment, rising tuition discussed – need to focus on value of being a parochial focused catholic school and avoid being seen as private school. Big Xtra value. We need to have our faith community understand that supporting the school and using it is a fundament part of our catholic community that extends beyond just the parents and school children. It is a responsibility of all to support faith instruction. We need to look for ways to make it possible for more to attend. We need to eliminate the notion that if we did not support the school (\$\$) we could use the money else where. School support in all forms is our mission not an option. Should be pride and passion not a negative. What should we do at present with the

areas: To many school buildings, to small of class sizes and rising expenses. Further Topic items – brainstorm. Council representation on school boards?

- Discussion on parish boundaries. What are they and are they important today?

3.2 New School members – Jackie Hunstinger

- Father asked if others interested in serving on Grade School, or Junior/Senior high - Cathedral/John 23 School to assist in bring information back and forth. See Father if interested.
- Father Tony received attention items from Fr. Steve Binsfeld, some were past on to the Finance Committee for review.

4.0 Unfinished Business – no presented

4.1 Tom Gaetz – Busy Bags for toddler’s use during mass. Use the model that St. Augustine and Salem Lutheran are employing. Discussed concept:

- Available at front entrance
- Fabric bags with quiet washable religious oriented toys that will appeal to young children – colorful, grab youth attention (peek-a boo) items
- Focus: to assist young families with their young children – 2 to 3 yr olds
- Outcomes: Allow parents to participate more fully in mass with less distraction from their children. This might benefit others distracted by young activities
- Provide a positive experience for the very young, yet tie in with toys that highlighted a Christian theme/message.
- Concerns:
 - Will the idea be perceived incorrectly – just trying to keep children quiet
 - When is it OK to accept the reality of all stages of life? Children might be noisy and fussy; parents might feel embarrassed and not know what to do, the commotion might negatively affect some attendees distracting from the sacrament. Yet, this circumstance might present to perfect opportunity to celebrate the stages of our Christian lives, present opportunities for shared interest and support. Toys might be one answer – also need to support families in the process of building our faith community.
 - Who will take ownership of this resource; clean, mend, maintain
 - How can the idea be presented in a constructive way recognizing the varying interests of our congregation
- ACTION: Tom Gates to bring samples and group to discuss more at next meeting.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Liturgy of the Word; for 4 to 10 yr olds (spin of discussion from item 4.10)

- Official right of the church – Father outline the right.
- Might be a good time to introduce, offer this right, explain what it is and why
- ACTION: Judy Barthelemy agreed to research more and bring up again next meeting, see more details and how we can use our influence to assist in implementing.

5.2 tt

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Faith Formation

6.2 Finance

Joe Kramer

- After report items discussed issue about having a fee for events at the Cathedral. Finance committee recommended \$400 amount for group that charge a fee for attending. Fr. requested that the Parish Council discuss more before making any implementation. Need to find out about policies at other parishes in our group. Also Fr. Outline his idea of the Cathedral’s mission to the city of St. Cloud in hosting cultural event given our down town location. We what these group verse

having to tolerate them – benefit to our parish and the Church Add to next meeting agenda.

- Request to discount history books and sell remainder at block party. Concern voices about impact to author Pat Witte - She should be consulted. No other objections were raised.
- Recommendation to sell other items at Block Party – old school desks (OK given), Pew parts (thick Oak wood) from crypt remodeling (25 to 30 items): Tom Gaetz suggested some additional work might be needed to move items. He is willing to do extra work if buyer will make donation to St. Mary's. (\$100 - \$150 per items).
- Council requested update on June donation request to parish to increase giving. Letter came out in June, June collections down 24%, July down 8% - still about expected. Father's assessment at present is one of expected comfort, should watch closely however – we have a shrinking population and high degree of fixed incomes parishioners.

6.3 Stewardship

6.4 Liturgy

6.5 Parish Life

6.6 FIAT

6.7 Buildings and Grounds

6.8 Vision 2000

7.0 Next Meetings: 7:30 PM

- (Tuesday) September 25, 2007
- October 30th
- November 27th
- December (No Meeting)
- January 29th
- February 26th
- March 25th
- April 29th
- May 27th (Might not have meeting)
- June (No Meeting)
- July (No Meeting)

8.0 Adjournment: 9:18 PM – Fr. closing prayer

Requested future agenda Items:

- 1.0 Trustees with Fr. Tony will define roles and relationships for; Finance Committee, Parish Councils, and other committees, providing guiding direction.
- 2.0 In what ways can we be and be seen as a welcoming parish and a supporting member of a new Tri-parish group.
- 3.0 Fr. Steve's policy message to the Bishop on the limitation of three masses per weekend for priest.
Action: Fr. Tony on diocesan committee to discuss. How might the affect St. Mary's and how can we
- 4.0 Issues with school support, promotion. What can and should we be doing more of? (see 3.1)
- 5.0 Tom Gaetz – Busy Bags for 2 to 3 yr olds (see 4.1)
- 6.0 Judy Barthelemy - Liturgy of the Word for 4 to 10 yr olds (see 5.1)
- 7.0 Finance Committee recommendation for a \$400 fee for using the Cathedral by groups charging a fee.
- 8.0 Election of Officers at next meeting: Chair, Vic-Char, Recorder, and school member form council representatives to: St. Mary's St. Augustine - Grade School, (Cathedral/John 23) Junior and High School

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Bayerl