

**St. Gerald Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes April 12, 2007:**

Present: Missy Arana, Dan Buck (Vice-President), Todd Banchor, Ruth Guthrie (President), Leo Kochanowicz, Darlene Sheridan, Jim Svoboda, Becky Tometich, Kathy Valasek (Secretary), (Kathy Hanson, Recording Secretary)

Also Present: Fr. Gary Ostrander, John Bolas,

Special Guests: Dan Jensen and Tom Valasek

I. OPENING PRAYER

II. GUEST REPORTS:

A. Dan Jensen / Louis Palau - Heartland Festival:

A group of people has been preparing for a large 'Christian Heartland Festival', July 14-15 1-9pm in Omaha at the Quest Center for 3 years, and expect up to 40,000 people to attend the free event. Dan is a representative of that group and is inviting our church to participate in various ways. He said Archbishop Curtis has suggested each parish make a determination of the involvement they want to have (or not). They are planning to have a 'Catholic tent and some priest presence at the event' as a minimum. He mentioned areas of participation ranging from praying, announcements at our church, and promotion of involvement/volunteers. One opportunity for volunteers he mentioned is 'prayer counselors' from various churches that would talk to people that raise their hands after being asked if they 'are ready to give their life to Jesus/ etc...' These volunteers can sign up on-line and are trained to help attendees with interest get connected with a 'local household of faith'. There are also many activities for family members including extreme sports with testimonies, music (worship artists), and veggie tale type activities for the younger kids.

Quite a bit of discussion followed his presentation. Overall, there seemed to be support that we should probably announce the event to our parishioners as a minimum. It was decided that Father Gary might talk with some other church leaders about their understanding of the event/ participation and we should talk about it further / make some final decisions at our next meeting.

B. Tom Valasek / Updates on Vocations Committee / CCD Board: - *See Attachment 1 – Vocations Committee / CCD Board*

Vocations Committee has a nice group starting out well/strong. Activities, ideas have been starting and awareness is being elevated already. They are also putting together a vocation prayer to be said at different gatherings and to be available for adorers. Father Gary suggested an activity he is aware of where a specific 'vocation statue' travels to specific families/classrooms including CCD where vocations are specifically prayed for, then the statue moves to another group.

CCD Board: CCD Board has been established and they will probably meet 4 times per year. Adult Education will keep trying to draw CCD parents to Religions Educational opportunities, even though attendance was light this year for some of the opportunities.

C. School Report: (Dave Garland) – *No School Report this meeting*

III. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Approved Feb Minutes. No minutes for March Budget Meeting

IV. PASTORS REPORT:

APC/ Deanery: Deanery structure changing. St. Gerald will now be grouped with different churches more South and East than in previous years. New Deanery includes St. Charles B, Gretna, Springfield, Papillion, Bellevue, and St. Stevens. St. Ann's church is going to be used by the 'Fraternity of St. Peters' to do the Catholic Traditional Latin Mass. Father named some of the other Priests in rural areas that are adding another Church to their responsibilities and which churches are designated to include

Hispanic ministry. Father is on a committee for 'Adult Faith Formation' and would like opinions from 5 parishioners... we passed out the opinion forms to be completed by various representatives.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Stewardship (Todd Banchor) - *No written report this month*

The Stewardship meeting date has been changed to after this meeting; so not much activity to report. The Spirit Link activities have been started again.
Vocations discussion under Guest Report

B. Total Education Committee (Missy Arana) – *See Notes from School Advisory, Attachment 2*

Library (Darlene Sheridan) – All new progress has been on hold due to health issues. Since this is one of our Pastoral Council goals for 2007/8, it was suggested that Darlene request additional people help or move forward ideas and activities surrounding the Library, as possible.

CCD Board: See discussion under 'Guest Report / Tom Valasek

C. Evangelization (Fr. Gary) - *No Committee Report this Month*

1. RCIA: Father reflected on RCIA – a discussion started around a possible parallel program for 'already Catholics' that would like to have a catechism class. He will talk with other teachers of RCIA to determine if they think this would be a realistic plan for next year or following years.
2. Natural Family Planning: Father is trying to get people lined up to start teaching this and have it as a requirement for engaged couples to be married /prepared in at our church.

D. Family Life Committee (Dan Buck) – *No Committee Report this Month*

Speaker sponsored by our Pro-life group: Chip Maxwell, pro-life State Senator is going to be here May 15 to discuss Stem-Cell issues. Announcements going out in Catholic Voice and KVSS. He plans to bring a couple other people for panel discussion. 7pm Fellowship hall. Mothers day ad will be available for participation and announced at an upcoming Mass. Father re-iterated that he liked the fact that our pro-life group is developing an all-inclusive approach to 'promote life' (not death) issues. Dan said he would like to update information on the Welcome Booklet for his areas.

E. Finance (Jim Svoboda) – *See Attachment 3, Finance Committee Report for 3/21/07 meeting, Monthly Financial Report for 2/07*

Net income is down~ but we have adapted to that budget. Deficit is mostly due to 7-8th grade addition needs.

F. Human Needs Committee (Darlene Sheridan) – *No Written Report this month*

1. See activities of Library under Total Education /Adult Ed.
2. Shelters: Jackie is planning a June retirement from her responsibilities with Sienna Francis. Darlene is going to continue to coordinate with Becky and Jackie for now.

G. Liturgy (Becky Tometich) – *See Attachment 4, Liturgy Committee Meeting, March 12, 2007*
Additional Discussion: Healing Mass has been moved to May 1.

H. Maintenance (Leo Kochanowicz) - *No Committee Report this Month*

Additional Discussion: School Walk through was done again with contractor;

- We are still waiting for Vendor Manuals including control drawings on Mechanical Equipment from Contractor and/or Engineer
- New Chiller Storage tank ordered on 3/36/07
- Water Treatment updates- not comfortable with major changes yet, chemicals working ok for now
- Boilers: regular maintenance, 2 gas valves replaced recently

I. Social Committee (Kathy Valasek) – *See Attachment 5, Social Committee Meeting April 12, 2007*

Additional Discussion: No phone numbers were on the directory draft.. Publishing company needs to re-do this to include phone numbers.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

Parish Council Elections: Re-iterated that Kathy Valasek, Ruth Guthrie and Todd Banchor will be retiring from their elected positions

VI. NEW BUSINESS: none

VII. PRESIDENT/ VP BUSINESS: (Ruth Guthrie, President and Dan Buck, Vice-President)

Goals 2006-2007/Retreat:

#3 - CCD Program Board / Enhancement with parent program. Father requested involvement of a priest or deacon and to keep things public. See notes in Guest Report/ Tom Valasek

#12 – Communication: To continue to develop the communication enhancements we had worked on last year; including mission/vision statement publicity.

#13 – Assessing Committees; Includes knowledge of activities and committees and addressing stagnant committees or other opportunities/limiting factors. Some of this is being completed with the review/upgrade of committee charts..

#17 – Library: develop the library to be utilized more as it is a great asset for parishioners that is not utilized as much as it could be. This will be handled under the Total Ed Committee, but the PC wants to keep it as a goal as well. See Discussion under Adult Education

#25 – PC members to attend mass on day of or close to meeting day.

#30 – Vocations Committee: Strategize and implement action to assure there are local opportunities to understand, encourage, and invite religious vocations. See activities under Guest Report / Tom Valasek

A. Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) – April 13-14 is general assembly, which both Ruth and Dan are planning to attend.

B. Next meetings: Thurs. May 10, 2007

C. CLOSING PRAYER / Adjournment