

**ST. NOEL PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES FOR MONDAY, June 8, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Dave Barni, Patty DeJohn, Ric Doringo, Randy Eveland, Kathleen Heer, SLW, Alice Hinkel, Joan Mihalcik, Margaret Neville, Eleanor Reilly, Tom Repko, Fr. George Smiga, Bob Tomkalski, Mel Troha, Sharon Waltermire

Meeting convened at 7:00PM

- I. Opening Prayer: Reflection and sharing on Matthew 28:16-20
- II. Update of the joint RCIA proposal with Divine Word: St Noel's pastoral staff has reviewed and discussed this concept, and fully supports. Fr. George has initiated discussions with Fr. Dave Woost concerning this subject. Fr. Woost was receptive to this idea, however Divine Word will most likely not be able to address this until the fall of 2009. Divine Word's relationship with St Philip Neri is changing; parish resources and committees need to reevaluate their goals and commitments over the next few months. St Noel will revisit this subject when it reconvenes in September.
- III. Update on tuition meetings held in April: All families receiving financial assistance from St. Noel met with parish representatives to review the policy and make a commitment to be active in our parish. The parish will review these activities on a quarterly basis.
- IV. Update on the parish's financial situation: Projections for the current financial year show a deficit of \$50K in collections relative to the budget set last year. However, since the parish had forecasted an overall surplus of \$60K, a net surplus of \$10K is now the current forecast. An opportunity in the next few weeks may allow the parish to replace the current pumped sewer system with a direct tie-in to the city sewers; if the cost of this project is less than \$35K, it would be beneficial for the parish to proceed with this project.
- V. Comments on the Living Stations presented by the joint Youth Group at Divine Word: The performance was attended by many from both parishes; just about every seat was taken. All who attended were treated to an inspirational program put on by the high school and middle school teens. Possible considerations for next year include a presentation at St Noel and consideration to the timing so as not to overlap with St Noel's Good Friday liturgy.
- VI. The question 'How can St. Noel be a more welcoming community' was discussed. Each parish within the diocese recently received two manuals. Much of the information contained within the manuals is not relevant to St Noel's situation; the manuals specifically address parishes that are closing and parishes that are clustered with a closing parish.

Brainstorming discussions ensued to identify short term and long term ideas:

- Consider greater responsibility of ushers
- Consider greater responsibility of Eucharistic ministers
- Have additional greeters prior to or after weekend masses

- Written reminder in weekly bulletin
- Invite and empower all parishioners
- Welcoming bulletin board
- Website advertisement
- Pastor discuss during weekend liturgies
- Make a conscious effort to introduce yourself to others

Long term goal – challenge community to be welcoming

General Announcements:

- Bishop Lennon has changed the policy for the age at which parishes celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Effective July 1, 2009 (correction to July 1, 2010) all parishes will follow a single policy that has Confirmation occurring between the 8-11<sup>th</sup> grades.
- A promising candidate for musical director has been identified, and on-going discussions may have him/her under contract in the next couple weeks.

Next meeting: Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 7:00 pm

- Prayer: Kathleen Heer, SLW
- Refreshments: Bob Tomkalski
- Minutes: Georgeanne Botek

Closing prayer led by Mel Troha.