

PASTORAL COUNCIL
ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION
Minutes of April 16, 2009

Present:	Fr. William Foley, Pastor	Andrew Smith
	Fr. Mark White, Associate Pastor	Regina Piazza
	Robert Braswell, President	Joseph DeCesaris
	Josephine Clay, Secretary	
Absent:	Steve Showalter, School Principal	Lisa Huntley
	Paul Sukalo, Vice President	Annette Gilbert-Jackson
	Gloria Garner	Charles Long
	Sr. Myra Gilbert	Johanna André
	Barbara Fealy	Mimi Smith

I. Opening Prayer / Introductions

Mr. Braswell called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m. Fr. Foley opened the session with a prayer. There was no quorum, and thus no motion was made to approve the minutes of the meeting.

II. Minutes of the March 19 Meeting

These minutes were posted on the parish website prior to the March meeting. The minutes were also electronically distributed to the Council members. Numerous hard copies of the minutes were available for review at the meeting. Regina Piazza noted corrections in the minutes. In page 2, paragraph 5 should read as "... items should be submitted to her or Colleen Baxter." On page 3, paragraph 5 has a misprint in that the priest's name should be Fr. Salah.

III. Committee Reports

A. Principal's Report

Steve Showalter was not present at this meeting. There was no Principal's report.

Although there was no report, Fr. Foley attended a meeting and mentioned the status of the school. In this meeting, there was a scorecard. Saint Mary's achieved flying colors. The partial demographics reveal that 32% of the student population lived within five miles of the schools. The Catholic schools in the Archdiocese had been changing, so a community of schools must unite. Some schools had an increasing body of non-Catholics. Saint

Mary's is 90% Catholic. The Family Life Center, which would be built on school grounds, would focus on education.

B. Knights of Columbus

On April 21, KOC has been scheduled to feed the homeless. KOC has finished its membership drive, gaining six new members. The drive occurs twice a year. There will be a KOC Convention from May 15-17, 2009 in Ocean City. Last year, there was a classic car show in the inlet parking lot. There will also be the nomination of officers with an effective date of office on July 1st.

In the first week of April, KOC celebrated the Founder's Day Dinner. After Mass, awards were given. George Floria, Sr. received Family of the Year Award for the State. He would be eligible to receive the Knight of the Country Award.

C. Liturgy Committee

Holy Week was the busiest time in church calendar. The liturgical activities went well. The Tenebrae on Wednesday was well attended. The Passion of the Lord, which was celebrated in the evening previously, was moved to 3:00 p.m. The 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross had less attendance than the 3:00 p.m. Stations. There was liturgy on Good Friday.

There was a debriefing of the Holy Week activities amongst Mrs. Piazza, Andy Smith and Charlie Long. They will submit their report to Fr. Foley.

Presently, the committee is planning the May procession for May 16 -17. The Teen Club will hand out flowers. The first communicants and the confirmands will also participate. Solidarity will prepare the May altar.

There was a discussion of recruiting members for the committee. The committee presented questions whether this could be done on the first Sunday during hospitality. Another suggestion was made to have recruitment during Ministry Fair.

A question was presented concerning receiving Holy Communion with both species. Both species would be given until the Pentecost. Fr. Foley greatly approved of both species. It was an experiment to give both species during Lent through Easter. Giving Holy Communion in both species would not be possible in the summer due to unavailability of EMOE's.

D. SMA Website/Church Bulletin

There are no new items in this area. Rob Braswell reiterated adding a box in the bulletin for the Pastoral Council activities.

E. Forty Days for Life

The plan for Forty Days for Life was for the parish to fill February 28 and March 28 with volunteers from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. All slots were filled except for the block of 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on March 28. A Holy Redeemer parishioner, however, came to the Berwyn Heights site. There were a total of at least twenty-five parishioners who participated.

The Pro-life Committee held no meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for April 25. The President of 40 Days came on Friday night and was at Berwyn Heights. Jesus the Divine Word parish would provide a report concerning this community-based campaign. There were 295 "Conscience Clause" letters collected, and they were all turned in to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in individually addressed envelopes.

IV. Dean's Visit – Follow-Up Report

The Dean's visit occurred two days before the new auxiliary bishop, Bishop Barry Knestout, came. Fr. Foley introduced him to the physical plant of the parish. He shared the following vision: 1) A Family Center will be built next to the school. At this time, the required application for permits were submitted as planned; 2) the Crandall-Rothstein House will become the pastor's residence with two guest suites; and 3) A remodeled building where the current rectory is located. The new structure will consist of a two-story office building with a social hall. The current PCR building will be torn down. The total cost of the additions and renovations is five million dollars. This is the reason for a capital campaign.

Papers were filed with the Archdiocese after the Dean's visit. The visit gave the parish an opportunity to speak and be heard by the Archbishop *i.e.*, the vision of the parish. At the time of this report, some parishioners were still submitting their feedback. Fr. Foley summarized the purpose of the visit as a sounding board for the parish and the information provided were kept confidential.

In light of the capital campaign, a discussion ensued concerning a capital campaign company. Companies were interviewed. All companies talked about greater participation amongst the parishioners. The planning stage would occur part of the summer. This company has the tools for fundraising that volunteers could apply. The Pastoral Council must clearly communicate the parish vision to the church community. Fr. Foley strongly encourages a new parishioner to choose a ministry. When parishioners share a common vision, it would make the community more vibrant.

V. Hospitality Committee/Ministries Spotlight

Spotlighting the ministries is ongoing. It was expressed that the Liturgy Committee need new members. Questions were raised if the committee could recruit new members during Hospitality Sunday in May. There was no clear answer to this question; however, it would be presented during the Ministry Fair.

VI. SMA September Picnic/Ministries Fair

The need to spread the word for help to organize the picnic is imminent among the different ministries and Knights of Columbus. Planning early is a good start. Rob Braswell shared information that Sam Koroma is not running the Catholic Youth Organization. He will contact Mike Piazza.

Fr. Foley noted the CYO is parish ministry. It is not necessarily a school function. It is with hope to coordinate a CYO Board to have the parish youth actively participate like the Teen Club. CYO coordinates sports and it is not primarily focused on sports. It is neither strictly academic. CYO can conduct retreats or plays. It is open to grade school and high school.

It had been suggested that the Teen Club organize and coordinate games for the SMA Picnic. At the same token, the Teen Club is looking for new leaders. Deacon Klco and Trudy want to pass down the baton. The future leadership may consist of a team of parents. In addition, the Teen Club and CYO need funds.

VII. New Business

● Election for new Council members

May is election month for Pastoral Council members. Some of the members are rotating out. Three positions are appointed positions. The terms for Gloria Garner, Barbara Fealy, Annette Gilbert-Jackson, and Josephine Clay expire this year. Solicitation of members will be through an announcement in the bulletin and by word of mouth. Nominations will be held in May and the election will be on Pentecost Day. The nominees will have a photo and a brief write up of self.

● There will be a Parish Social on the Feast of Pentecost. It will be a celebration of the end of the Easter season which also coincides with the conclusion of the school year. The reception will consist of a barbeque cook out. The Pastoral Council will help organize the event.

● Charlie Long, the CCD Coordinator, is retiring. Regina Piazza will replace Mr. Long. Congratulations to Mrs. Piazza.

- ✦ The last meeting for the 2008-09 Council will be in June. Election of officers will be held at this meeting.

VIII. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Fr. White led the closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.