

**St Catherine of Siena
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2009**

Present: Beth Carroll, Matt Cooney, Dan Finlay, Carl Franck, Ann Gifford, Eileen Gravani, Chang-Sik Oh, Janet Strebel, Fr. Mike Mahler, Sr. Mary O'Brien

Absent: Chuck Alridge, Juan Arroyo, Mary Boris, Frank Ciaramello, Michelle Mathios, Michael Monacelli, Nancy Pringle, Larry Walker, Beverly Way

Dan Finlay facilitated the meeting and led the group in an opening prayer. The March 10, 2009 meeting minutes were approved.

Father Mike shared with the group an update on his health.

The Annual Diocesan Priests Convocation will be held at Cornell University this year and the Annual Mass will be celebrated at St Catherine's on 4/21/09 at 5:30 PM. The Mass is part of a three day convocation which will be held at The Statler Hotel. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Clark and all families are welcome. The Cornell Catholic Ministry will provide the music for the Mass.

Father Mike also shared that the parish has begun advertising for Linda Denz' replacement. The parish can only offer 25-30 hours so this will make it difficult to find someone who is willing to relocate. Sr. Mary shared that she believes we will need to look from within the Pastoral community.

Dan Finlay reminded the council members that the Pastoral Council is still looking for a vice-chair. It would be nice to have someone before this summer.

Financial Feasibility Study Vendor (Bill Perkins)

Bill reviewed prior work completed in selecting RSI. Buddy Miller began the work but shortly after beginning he was layed off due to a reduction in force. The committee was concerned and decided to revisit the decision. The committee contacted the other company to see if they wanted to return for further interviews, which they did. RSI also returned. The committee spoke with the president of RSI and met with Mick Tune, the new consultant, who is also a vice president of RSI and Buddy's boss. The committee reviewed the information again and again decided to go with RSI. All committee members were convinced that RSI was the right choice. Contract has been signed and a down payment was made on 4/13/09.

RSI believes they should teach the concept of stewardship as a long term commitment to the parish. They want the parish to understand that this type of project is a commitment of continued giving and support to the parish. RSI has a clear spiritual and faith formation perspective in their philosophy. Sr. Mary shared she feels Mick Tune

has a gentle approach and she believes parishioners will feel comfortable with him. Bill Perkins shared that Mick is not afraid to render an opinion and give advice. Father Mike shared that Mick also has a fair amount of experience working in college communities. Matt shared that he checked references which were very positive. Matt also shared that Mick Tune caught an error on the proposed on-line questionnaire the previous consultant had not caught. Names will be needed on the confidential questionnaires to ensure that there are not any bogus ones. However, names will not be associated with comments that are made and will not be revealed to anyone in the parish.

Timeline has been backed up to May with a report to the Pastoral Council in June 2009. The fundraising forum scheduled for May will need to be pushed back. A new date has not been set.

Dan Finlay informed the Pastoral Council that we will need to meet one time during the summer. He will send out an e-mail asking about summer schedules. The members present were willing to meet during the summer. Dan will seek our input regarding a meeting date and will provide a deadline for our response.

Matt asked for volunteers to assist in scheduling the 115 individual and group interviews. There will be 24 individual interviews and the rest will be group. Juan, Janet, Eileen, Beth and Matt have volunteered to schedule interviews. Letters will be mailed the week of 4/20 and calls to schedule the interviews will be made the week of 4/27. Interviews will begin 5/6/09.

March 22nd and March 24th Forums

Approximately 30 people attended each forum. Matt distributed a handout summarizing the information collected. Matt said he would have liked more people to attend but added that Mick Tune felt it was a very respectable turnout. An additional 21 voted on line.

The space priorities were the reception hall, kitchen, lounge, large meeting rooms and the narthex. There will be a detailed document available to parishioners after Mass this weekend.

The presentations were well done and a great job has been done summarizing the information so far. There were opportunities for people to talk. Many members of the Pastoral Council gathered the information shared by parishioners.

Finance Council Update (Ann Gifford)

Mike Redlin attended the March meeting and provided the Finance Council with first hand information and update on the facilities planning project. He talked about the goals of the project and the timeline. Mike was able to find out from the members of the

Finance Council which pieces of the timeline they wanted to be consulted on. The Finance Council wants to be consulted on any expenditure. This has already been occurring. Ann encouraged the Finance Council members to attend the parish forums.

Ann reported that there has been a modest drop in revenues in 2/09 but overall we are still a little ahead in revenues from last year. There is financial information being posted on the parish website. Father Mike explained that revenues are covering current expenses but collections are lower than what the budget is calling for.

The Stewardship Committee is in the middle of the Lenten Appeal. Monies are coming in. Father Mike explained that the appeal is an attempt to increase the parish reserve fund (in case of emergencies).

The Pastoral Council members thanked Ann for her report.

Discussion of Draft for Case Study (Bill Perkins)

Bob Julian joined the Pastoral Council for this discussion.

Bill explained what a case study is. The study is an attempt to focus the parish on the project the parish is exploring. It brings in what we have learned and what we feel would be a good course of action. RSI feels that if you don't have something with specifics, you will not obtain a reliable response from the parish. It begins to make a statement of what we could do if we have the funds. This is a draft and they want feedback. It is important to get a picture of what parishioners can commit to over a 3 year period.

Bill asked for feedback on 2 questions; 1) Reaction on where the case study is wrong, and 2) Concurrence from the council on having the statement distributed to parishioners.

There was a lengthy discussion of the merits of the case study draft document. The case study is designed to engage the parish community if a discussion/dialogue. Bill explained the 3 options;

1. Repairs only
2. Renovate the existing Pastoral center and do the repairs
3. New construction

Suggestion made to pull the vital information out of the paragraphs and put in a bulleted format. Matt and Dan will revise. The case study statement needs to go out with the letters to the people being interviewed.

Dan read several options for the opening sentence. There was consensus on using the wording, "ill advised" in place of "short sighted". There was also consensus on moving the information on the top of page 3 to page 2. Dan will work with Matt on these revisions.

Dan asked if there was consensus on using the case statement. There was consensus. The revised case statement will be sent to Bill Perkins and the members of the Pastoral Council.

Pastoral 50th Anniversary Celebration: (Father Mike)

Father Mike shared the history of the founding of the Pastoral in 1960 and the actual construction of the Church which was completed in 1962. So, there is an opportunity to have a two year celebration of the 50th anniversary. Father Mike asked the council to begin to think about ways we could celebrate. The Liturgy Committee is also generating ideas.

Next Spring, perhaps 4/29/2010 (Feast of St. Catherine of Siena) or the 4th Sunday of Easter, 5/4/2010 or 5/3/2010 we could celebrate the founding of the church.

Other ideas that were discussed included the following;

1. Identify living founding parishioners (1960-1961) and interview them. Include their interviews in future celebrations
2. Have another celebration 2012
3. Create a commemorative booklet and/or C.D.
4. Trans-generational Interviews (young with older parishioners)
5. Parish Retreat
6. On 4/29/2012, have 1 Mass with a 5 PM Mass option
7. Sponsor a social justice event
8. Donate a gift to the poor
9. Include our sister parish in the celebration via technology
10. Bring in a well known speaker (? In conjunction with a parish retreat)
11. Bob Julian has a slide show with a video from the 25th anniversary that we could use.
12. Updated parish directory

Father Mike suggested we put the 50th anniversary celebration on a future agenda. Sr. Mary suggested establishing a Planning Committee.

The meeting concluded with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Minutes Submitted By:
Janet Rascoe-Strebel
April 26, 2009