

**St. Catherine of Siena  
Joint Meeting of the Pastoral and Finance Councils  
September 8, 2009**

**Present:** Juan Arroyo, Beth Carroll, Dan Finlay, Carl Franck, Ann Gifford, Eileen Gravani, Larry Walker, Beverly Way, Sr. Mary O'Brien, Bob Julian, Fran Kallfelz, Dianne Orcutt, Pat Williams

**Absent:** Chuck Alridge, Janet Strebel, Chang-Sik Oh, Frank Ciaramello

**Excused:** Mary Boris, Matt Cooney, Nancy Pringle, Pat Côté, Frank Fetsko, Georgian Leonard

1. Dan led the Councils in prayer.

2. July minutes were approved.

3. Comments

Stewardship: commitment forms have been mailed; stewardship weekend is Sept. 12-13.

Faith formation: Christine Williams is the able administrator of our faith formation for grades PreK-12. Liz Collucci is our Middle School teacher in 2009-2010. Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be taught by parent volunteers. Grades 4 and 5 will be taught by a new parishioner who is not a parent but is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher by profession. This provides an opportunity to develop our "family faith" program outside the model of parent as teacher.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: The committee is chaired by Steve Jesch and has 19 members including three liaisons to other committees/ministries (liturgy, faith formation, adult faith).

Fundraising: Matt Cooney and Susan Piliero are the heads of the fundraising teams. Volunteers work on different teams with a specific focus. Our consultant, Mick Tune, works directly with the leaders of each team. The Early Gifts team received pledges in the amount of \$318,000. Invitation letters to an Advanced Commitment meeting on either Sept. 14 or 15 was sent to 140 parishioners. The public kick-off of the fundraising campaign is Oct. 3-4. Sr. Mary will preach that weekend and ask all parishioners to prayerfully consider a commitment.

Diocesan News: Sr. Mary was not able to get the date of the priest personnel board meeting. She would like more information about the sacramental minister for St. Catherine's.

Facilities: Current projects (the church beams, asbestos and mold remediation, church roof) have all come in under bid or estimated costs.

CMA (Catholic Ministries Appeal): The annual diocesan campaign will kick-off at the same time as our parish fundraiser. Our parish assessment is \$30,600 down \$3000 from last year.

Mass for Peace: The regional Mass for Peace is Sept. 21 at Immaculate Conception Church. Bishop Matthew Clark will preside.

4. Discussion of Covenanting Council Questions

The Pastoral Council responded to four questions from the Covenanting Council, a planning group of the seven faith communities in Tompkins County. Numbers following an item indicate the approximate number of council members who mentioned it. A “U” indicates a unanimous vote. The tallies are approximate.

**Parish Ministries of which we are particularly proud:**

Music ministries, U  
Variety of ministries, 1  
Welcoming and Social, 5  
DR Projects, 6  
Peace and Justice, 4  
Opportunities for developing our spiritual life, 1  
Small faith communities, 1  
Leadership initiatives, 4  
Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 2  
Faith Formation, 3

**Unique Parish Ministries:**

DR/Sister Parish, 7  
Meals to the homebound/grieving, 2  
Ignatian Spiritual Exercises/Centering Prayer, 2  
St. Catherine’s Book Club, 2  
200 Club, 1  
Migrant workers, 1  
Spanish Mass, 1  
Parents and grandparents playgroup, 1  
Relationship to Cornell/higher education, 1  
Korean Community, 1

**Physical Assets:**

Beautiful church, U  
Beautiful grounds/open space  
Church window  
Large parking lots  
Priests’ residence  
Prime real estate  
A Parish Center

**Main Concerns:**

Sacramental minister by January, 1  
Need priests, U  
Successful Parish Center and Church repair, U  
Money for repairs/financial support, U  
Physical deterioration of the Parish Center  
Enlarging/encouraging commitment and activity  
Involving transient population  
Increasing enrollment in Youth Faith Formation  
Retaining and involving young adults  
Long-term and responsible facilities management, 2

5. Report from the Facilities Project Steering Committee (FPSC)

Steve Moolin from the FPSC reported to the Pastoral and Finance Council that all the conditions for the Church roof repair have been met except for the acquisition of the bridge loan. This loan provides funds for the time between the awarding of the roof repair contract and the fulfillment of fundraising pledges. The PC and FC agreed with the FPSC's recommendation to seek the bridge loan from two lenders in parallel.

It was noted that one roofing contractor would charge the parish less if it waited and repaired the roof in the spring. Despite the savings on construction and loan costs, there was consensus to proceed with immediate repairs rather than delay through winter and risk interior damage to the Church.

6. PC and FC approval of two FPSC actions

- The PC and FC unanimously approved remediation of the minor mold situation in the Parish Center for an amount not to exceed \$5000.
- The PC and FC unanimously approved temporarily capping a portion of the parish center roof and making ongoing repairs as needed to stop the leaks for an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

Sr. Mary accepted the FPSC's recommendation to install the Grand Canyon asphalt shingle roof finish.

Both councils expressed thanks for the work of Steve Moolin and Mike Redlin whose tireless efforts keep the facilities and fundraising work on track.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.  
Submitted by Beverly Way