

St. Pius X Parish Council Minutes  
Midwinter Review  
February 9, 2008

Present - Bob Lang, Mary Mares, Doug Laurent, Brian Van Boxtel, John Wingert, Jean Coffey, Barb Lauer, Mary Sullivan, Dick Paalman, Jenna Harrison, John Petit, John Heidenga, Scott Morton

Parish Committee Updates -

Stewardship - John Petit reported on the activities of the team.

1) They reviewed a possible pilot project last spring - the Parish Vitality Initiative. The parish staff chose not to be involved in this pilot. John explained some of their reasoning. He briefly discuss the Evangelical Catholic Institute (EC) which Fr. Quinn is bringing to the parish. 2) The children's stewardship program is run by Sr. Shawn. 3) The baptism anniversary program makes phone calls to parish homes during the month of the anniversary of the child's baptism. 4) The stewardship committee has promoted the Fr. Girotti series.

Plans for the future - 1) The group will support the EC program. Also supporting the Total Catholic Board of Education in providing small group adult Bible study. 2) Continue children's program. 3) Re-evaluating baptism anniversary program to make more effective. 4) Plan to host a stewardship fair this fall. 5) Main goal of the committee remains to help the parish reach 100% Mass attendance.

Total Catholic Board of Education - Main emphasis is EC. There are 5 small group Bible studies doing a 7-week series on Genesis to Jesus. Training will be provided for the group leaders. There will be one group doing a 24-week series from Jeff Cavins.

Communication is an issue. How can we advertise programs offered to parishioners? The purpose of the baptismal phone calls was to connect one-on-one, to offer services, to see if there are needs the parish can meet. Jean stated that her granddaughter received a baptismal anniversary card and was invited to come choose a gift - something directly to the child.

Stewardship team - John Petit, Sr. Shawn, Deacon Rick, and Dean Sweere

Discussed the goal of the PPC is to get parishioners more involved - specifically we could target those who are not involved. Bob Lang will be working with Sr. Shawn to develop a committee to find volunteers for committees and activities for volunteers. We offer so many

programs at little or no cost - do parishioners know about them? John further discussed the Vitality Initiative - its goal is to create healthier parishes. The initiative proposed surveying parishioners to better understand their needs, where they are in their faith development, what opportunities do they want from their parish. There were concerns about long-term costs in terms of personnel and programs and if there would be a loss of control because of the outside financial donation.

Respect Life/Social Concerns - Dick Paalman was interested to hear about Bob's plan to work on getting a pool of volunteers. His committee is interested in involving more people. Each month the parish donates \$3000 toward community programs. Their goal is to present info on one program each month as a flyer in the bulletin to explain the organizations and help parishioners better understand services offered in the community and what our parish is supporting. Dick would like to see info about the elections offered - not talking about candidates or parties, but explaining issues from a Catholic perspective so parishioners are better educated.

The group is interested in connecting with the Elizabeth Ministry in Kaukauna to better understand the program there.

Building and Grounds - Scott Morton explained the makeup of the committee - 9 members, they meet every other month, they have been resistant to new membership, yet are looking at having 3-yr terms and have members rotate off. The PPC supports the need to include new members. The committee has three functions - 1) preventative/ongoing maintenance - there are regular inspections of the roof and sealing of the parking lots. The staff and volunteers work hard to maintain the facility. 2) major expenditures - in the near future the old school roof and the west parking lot will require replacement. Also will need to replace the lawn tractor this spring. 3) reduce operating costs - lights, etc. are on timers, the thermostat is set lower - able to save large amounts of money on utilities. As we get out of debt, the committee wants the parish to continue to donate as expenses will continue. Request the collection envelopes be changes to say Debt Reduction/Capital Improvement - Doug said he can take care of that. Other projects under discussion - finding off-site storage for picnic supplies and a new parish sign that is more visible.

Finance - Doug Laurent felt the financial picture is looking pretty good. One weekend in January we met our collection goal. He

commended the staff for taking control of their segment of the budget and managing within that amount. Advancing the Mission and the Bishop's Appeal were mentioned. We anticipate capital expenses of \$200 - 500,000 in the next couple of years. We have been working smarter and managing expenses such as utilities. Our commitment to ACES/Xavier cost the parish \$700,000/year - a large part of our budget.

Communication was mentioned again as an issue. Parishioners need to be aware of fundraising opportunities. 1) There are the upcoming Fish Boils with a TV raffle. 2) The basketball raffle run by Mark Brueggeman. 3) The parish is responsible for \$96,000 toward the Bishop's Appeal. 4) The parish picnic is our largest fundraiser - about \$40,000. Bob will be working as the Volunteer Coordinator for the picnic. 5) The decision by Finance Council and the PPC to enforce the stewardship requirement for ACES and Faith Formation families has provided a commitment of \$40,000. 6) Fr. Tom present the info on the "207 Club". The debt for the building is about \$207,000. Sr. Shawn suggested that parishioners could be encouraged to give \$207 (over and above normal contributions) and if 1000 families were able to do that, we could give rid of that debt. Ribbons have been created to give as incentives. Fr. Tom plans to start the 207 Club promotion mid-February, after the Bishop's Appeal is underway.

Brian suggested that we could use the website to provide info to parishioners. We could include info about the social concerns activities and about committees looking for volunteers.

PPC work on our goal - The group by this point in the meeting was quite small with only a couple of members from each subcommittee. We decided to have remain in a large group to discuss next steps. Mary presented info about the Evangelical Catholic (EC) Institute. Fr. Quinn is very interested in bringing the institute to St. Pius. It offers similar benefits to the Parish Vitality Initiative. A small group of parishioners met with Jason Simon from the Institute Friday night before the PPC meeting to help him understand the parish better, as he develops the workshop for March. The purpose of bringing the institute into the parish is provide a structure to develop a more dynamic parish. The purpose of last night's meeting was to educate Jason. There wasn't much explanation of how EC works. The EC model seems to fit well with the PPC goal so Mary has asked that the

PPC members are invited to the workshop in March. (Mary got an e-mail this week suggesting that the EC workshop is still in discussion as to times, and perhaps even if we want to proceed.) The dates at this point for the EC workshop are Friday evening, March 7 and Saturday daytime, March 8. Please try to save these dates on your calendar.

The group decided to meet at our regular February meeting and develop a timeline of how we will work on our goal. We anxiously await the directory with the committee info to see what's in it and how we can utilize it to get more people involved. We will want to look at the Time and Talent survey to see if we want to suggest changes. We need to remember to connect with the ACES and Faith Formation families to remind them of their volunteer requirement. We look forward to hearing from Bob after he connects with Sr. Shawn on how we can use her database. Also we'd like to see a manual developed on using the database so others can make use of it. After the timeline is developed, we see the directory, we hear about EC, we can start to develop a more concrete plan. We can work in small groups outside the PPC or by e-mail. Much work remains before we achieve our goal.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 7:30.

We need to get a Nominations Committee started, to recruit new PPC members. We need about 3 volunteers to run this group. Selection takes place on Pentecost, which is early this year - May 11th (Mother's Day).

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Sullivan