

## **Saint Bridget Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, November 16, 2011**

The Saint Bridget Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) was called to order by Chairman Mark Sweeney on Wednesday, November 16, 2011. Mark Sweeney led the opening prayer.

**Present:** Mark Sweeney (PPC Chairman), Monsignor William Carr, Fr. Brian Capuano, Charlene Bechely, Augie Keller, Joe Jowaisas, Elizabeth Martin, Ellen Gilliam, Mike Kozak, Maria Morrison, Paula Murphy, Jim Melvin, Paul Amrhein (Human Concerns Minister)

The minutes from the October meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Human Concerns**

Paul Amrhein explained that the Human Concerns Committee, with 8 members and meeting once a month, is responsible for (1) providing oversight to the Human Concerns budget of \$70,000- 80,000 and (2) helping the church grow in its social mission. In recent months, the main issue has been with RISC, Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Communities. This is interracial, interfaith, nonpartisan organization which brings congregations together to address city issues.

The Ministries Booklet is on the church website. Paul will look into the ability for parishioners to sign up through the website. He will also place the committee member names on the website.

### **Transforming the Mass and Renewing our Devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus Christ:**

Monsignor Carr invited feedback for September's Real Presence Workshop and October's Ministry Matters Workshop. There has been low turnout for the Mass text presentations. How do we drive parishioners to these? Is there a need for a committee that would engage more people and "market" the need for more Liturgical Ministers? We need more parishioners to run the Mass as well as to have them grow in their faith – to BE TRANSFORMED!

There will be stand-up witnesses at Masses before the next Liturgical Matters workshop on February 18, 2012.

Pew Cards and larger worship leaflets will be provided at all Masses to help with the changes in the Mass text.

### **Nursery Issues:**

The nursery is established for the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses. It will be taken off the agenda.

### **Fellowship:**

Maria Morrison has established the church Playgroup, meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the months in the church's small nursery. She has received great feedback from the approximately 5 parents and 13 children that have participated.

Opportunities for other fellowship are a pancake breakfast on the Feast of St. Bridget, February 1, 2012 and a Blessing of the Pets ceremony in the Fall of 2012.

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### **Pulse of the Parish:**

- *School* – Charlene Bechley informed PPC that (1) Girl’s Night Out, a school fundraiser, will be held on November 17, (2) the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will visit Benedictine and St. Gertrude’s School as a field trip to support the continuing of Catholic education (65% of the 2011 graduating class enrolled in these schools), (3), the school adopted a family to participate in the Parish Christmas Sharing., (4) the school will partner with Blackwell Honor students in grades 2-5. The Honor Roll students will visit St. Bridget on November 21, attending class and eating lunch in the cafeteria. And (5) three new students have enrolled in the school, the first starting in November.
- *Finance Committee* - Mark Sweeney gave a brief Finance Council update, informing PPC that the school and the church are on budget as well as the offerings are ahead of budget. The Finance Committee will be discussing the ideas of refinancing or paying more off of the school loan.
- *Building Committee* – It was reported that some of the kneelers have already been replaced.
- *Stewardship* – Jim Melvin informed PPC that February is Stewardship Month. Discussions included informing parishioners of a tight time frame, perhaps 2 weeks, to limit the conflicts that arise during this time.
- *Liturgy Committee* – Mark Sweeney reported for Paul Sinclair that the committee’s main focus is the need for Liturgical Ministers, especially Sacristans. The second Ministry Matters workshop will be held on February 18, 2012 and they are firming up a date for a 2<sup>nd</sup> informational training meeting.
- *Youth Ministry* – Mark Sweeney reported for Marie Swider that the (1) Christmas Sharing is going on for the Confirmation class and (2) potential Youth Ministers are still being interviewed and an offer should be made by mid-December.
- *Music Ministry* – Ellen Gilliam let PPC know that Allen Bean is working on providing the music for the 5:00 Sunday Mass.
- *Men’s Ministry* – Mike Kozak informed PPC that the Octoberfest, held on November 6, 2011 at the Columbian Center, had about 60 parishioners.
- *Women’s Ministry* – Elizabeth Martin informed PPC that the Women’s bible study is going strong. There is a both a morning and evening study of the Gospel of Matthew with a total of approximately 40 women attending.
- *Human Concerns* –Mike Kozak expressed that the Pro-Life Ministry should be much more visible in the church’s ministries. PPC discussed the importance of forming a Human Concerns standing committee that would engage parishioners and not isolate them from the church’s interest

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**Other Issues:**

*Organ Update* – PPC unanimously voted in support of the Organ Replacement Project. Monsignor Carr informed that there is a meeting on Friday, November 18 with Bishop DiLorenzo to get his final approval. The organ should be in place by Christmas 2013, with a month of disruption during construction.

There will be a meeting on December 12 to discuss the organ design details.

Monsignor Carr will send a letter to parishioners informing them of the organ project and giving them an opportunity to donate.

*Next PPC meeting* – There will be no meeting in December.

The next PPC meeting will be held Wednesday, January 18, 2012 in the Parish Center Meeting Room at 7pm. John McCulla will be present to discuss the Stewardship Committee.

Submitted by Ellen Gilliam