

Saint Bridget Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, September 21, 2011

The Saint Bridget Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) was called to order by Chairman Mark Sweeney at approximately 7:14 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2011. Elizabeth Martin led the opening prayer.

Present: Monsignor Carr, Father Capuano, Mark Sweeney (PPC Chairman), Charlene Bechely, Paul Sinclair, Augie Keller, Turtle Zaun, Joe Jowaisas, Marie Morrison, Elizabeth Martin, Ellen Gilliam, Marie Swider, Mike Kozak, Ray Honeycutt (Saint Bridget School), Henry Berling (Saint Bridget School Finance Committee), Bob Burge (Diocesan Appeal), Christopher Evans (PPC Secretary).

The minutes from the previous Parish Planning Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

Ray Honeycutt – Saint Bridget’s School Update:

Ray provided an overview of Saint Bridget School’s enrollment and budget for the 2011-12 school year. This year’s enrollment is 454 students. The budget was based on an anticipated enrollment of 473. The discussion of trends focused on enrollment being slightly down over the last five years. Ray displayed a comparison of tuition rates for area Catholic Schools (parochial schools) and area private schools. He also displayed a comparison of enrollment numbers for area Catholic Schools for the past five years.

Ray concluded with a report on Saint Bridget School’s accomplishments over the past year including having students attending morning daily mass on a rotating weekly schedule, smart boards in all classrooms, 20 new netbooks, 53% of eighth graders earned the President’s Academic Excellence Award, adding three new Middle School subjects (Latin, Algebra and World History), adding a Full Time School Counselor, adding a Middle School Resource Teacher, instituting on-line homework, online grades, electronic progress reports and electronic quarterly report cards.

Henry Berling – Saint Bridget School Finance Committee:

Henry delivered an overview of the 2011-12 budget process for Saint Bridget School. Since the budget was developed for an anticipated enrollment of 473, with an ending enrollment of 454, there was a deficit. The School Finance Committee was able to make adjustment that reduced the deficit to \$14,000 which the Committee is monitoring. A number of options including deferring non-mandatory maintenance, cutting textbook extra’s, several expense savings opportunities, and/or supplemental special offering collections have been identified to close the shortfall.

Bob Burge – Annual Diocesan Appeal:

Bob discussed how the Diocesan Appeal works. Last year’s pledge was \$80,000, of which \$73,000 was collected. The Parish goal for 2011-2012 is \$60,000. Up to parish goal Saint Bridget’s gets 20% of the dollars collected. Over the goal, Saint Bridget’s receives 50% of the dollars collected. For additional information regarding the Diocesan Appeal, visit the website: “For the Diocese”.

The Diocesan Appeal will be discussed initially on October 2nd & 3rd with a short video shown during each Mass that weekend. The following weekend, PPC members will read a statement explaining the importance of the Diocesan Appeal during each Mass. A sign-up sheet was distributed for PPC members to commit to reading the Diocesan Appeal statement the weekend of October 8th and 9th.

Bob will need additional helpers to replenish pledge cards in the pews after each Mass.

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Paul Sinclair Liturgy Committee Report – Transforming the Mass and Renewing our Devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus Christ:

Paul led a short discussion of feedback garnered from the “Real Presence” workshop. Over 250 parishioners attended. The purpose of the program was to introduce our Parish effort to renew our focus on Christ as the central presence at St. Bridget's. Overall, comments were extremely favorable with the exception of some attendees expecting more discussion on the Roman Missal. The Liturgy Committee is now moving to implementation and ongoing formation of this presence in our assembly.

The next training regarding the Roman Missal will be conducted for the Liturgical Ministers (Lectors, Chalice Bearers, Sacristans, etc.). The program “Ministry Matters” will be conducted Saturday, October 15th, and again in February. After attending the “Ministry Matters” training, each Liturgical Minister will be given a three year term to serve. PPC members are encouraged to attend if possible.

Msgr. Carr highlighted that, for the person in the pew, there will be pew cards with the text of the new Missal, which will remain in place until everyone is acquainted with the language. A booklet on the “Real Presence” will be given to the assembly as well.

In addition, Msgr. Carr mentioned that additional information regarding the Roman Missal can be found using a link on the left-hand side of the Saint Bridget web site. This cross-link includes the writings appearing in the bulletins.

Msgr. Carr concluded by adding that many Liturgical Ministers are still needed, especially Sacristans. Additional members of the Liturgy Committee are needed as well. If interested, volunteers should contact Don Delaney.

Feedback on Mass Schedule:

General discussion revealed a few negative comments regarding the Mass schedule came from folks who formerly attended the noon mass. The schedule does create potential for Christian Education and fellowship between the 9am and 11am masses.

Maria Morrison – Fellowship/Hospitality Opportunities:

Maria disclosed that a new Play Group will be starting (newborn to Pre-K) in the Nursery on the 2nd/4th Fridays of each month from 10:00-11:30 a.m. starting October 14th.

Additionally they are planning a boy's night out and a pancake breakfast.

Marie Swider – Nursery Issues:

Marie mentioned that “Coffee in the Commons” will be held once a month after the 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass.

Separately, Marie discussed her work in the Nursery over two consecutive Sundays which saw an increase from 2 to 10 children attendees over that time period. To provide consistent childcare in the Nursery two staff persons were hired: Jackie Dwyer and Colby Sheppard. The new nursery staff will start at 8:45 a.m. in time for the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday mornings. They will work through the end of the 11 o'clock Mass with a brief break from 10:15 to 10:45 between Masses.

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Pulse of the Parish:

- Mark Sweeney gave a brief Finance Council update.
- *Human Concerns* – Joe Jowaisas is working with a gentleman who is an advocate with local governments on ways of getting designated funding for the poor to their intended recipients. Also working with Paul Amrhein on this.
- *Music Ministry* – Ellen Gilliam mentioned the Christmas Concert is scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd, at 4:00 p.m.
- *Communications* – Elizabeth Martin is reviewing the best way to communicate with parishioners. Updated the parish mailing list, and e-mailing lists, from the census data.
- *New Church Organ* – Msgr. Carr reported financing is being worked out for the new organ. Once concluded, the plan will be sent to the Diocese for approval. The intent is to have the new organ installed during 2013.
- *Youth Ministry* – Msgr. Carr reminded the Committee the Youth Minister search is on-going.
- *Teen Education* – Fr. Capuano mentioned the *Life Teen* educational program has been placed on hold temporarily. There will be a forthcoming announcement when the program has been rescheduled.

Closing:

Mark announced that Allen Bean, Music Minister, will present to the PPC during October's meeting. November's meeting will feature a presentation by Paul Amrhein.

Monsignor Carr closed the meeting with prayer.

The next PPC meeting will be held Wednesday, October 19th, in the Parish Center Meeting Room at 7pm.

Submitted by Christopher J. Evans