

MINUTES
St. Bridget Church
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
February 20, 2008

The Parish Pastoral Council Meeting was called to order by Bob Burge on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Monsignor Carr, Carl Barrafato, Christian Barrett, Charlene Bechley, Tom Bliley, Jr., Bob Burge, Frank deVenoge, Siobhan Dunnavant, Jeff Hamm, Michael Siewers, Mary Martha Thedieck

Absent: Kim Hulcher, Michael Kehoe, Billy Reid

Bob provided the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes – January 16, 2008 minutes were approved

Bob welcomed Theresa Lee, Religious Education Coordinator; and Katie Skirtich, Youth Minister, to the meeting.

Pulse of the Parish

- Upcoming parish council election procedure was briefly reviewed – Michael Kehoe, Michael Siewers and Mary Martha Thedieck will oversee the process this year
- Knights of Columbus parish chapter will sponsor two fish dinner evenings this Lenten season
- School Open House was well received

Youth Ministry Report

Katie Skirtich provided a six-month overview of the *Life Teen* program. She noted 40-60 youths attend the weekly meetings and it encompasses grades 9-10-11. Members plan to attend a Catholic work camp this summer and several ways and means projects were noted.

Katie also reviewed the Confirmation program which currently has 91 students enrolled.

Theresa Lee reported on the middle school program for youths in grades 6-7-8. This program, the *Edge*, is theologically oriented with approximately 80 attending each week. The program has been well received and *Caritas* is one of their projects.

Bob thanked the ladies for their reports.

Building Project Report

Christian Barrett reported on the recent Building Committee meeting noting the primary focus was to select a contractor for the project. Areas of criteria were:

- ✓ Capability
- ✓ Schedule
- ✓ Cost
- ✓ Impact on fund raising

After a lengthy review, the Hourigan Construction Company was designated the preferred contractor to begin the school project.

Capital Campaign

Bob read a letter from Charlie Giovannetti, in which it was noted the development committee is working along three fronts:

- ✓ Search for a development director
- ✓ Planning a series of 'cultivation breakfasts'
- ✓ Broader marketing/communications effort

Charlie noted the 14-member committee is overseeing the above three efforts and meets monthly. A timeline is in place and is relatively on schedule. He will keep council informed on a monthly basis.

Discussion followed, questions were asked, concerns addressed.

St. Bridget Church Financial Data

Bob reported on the Church Financial Data Report which is in the process of being reviewed and mailed to our parishioners. The consensus was that any communication to parishioners should define council's goal in understanding and bringing solidarity to our financial position. Methods of promotion will be the Sunday bulletin, *Bridge*, and email.

Parish Report

Monsignor Carr received approval from the Finance committee to replace the windows of the rectory which are the original ones. The windows are not only inefficient but replacement is needed from a security standpoint.

Irish Tenor concert, the successful parish fund raiser held last year, will return this October for two engagements.

A letter of intent was signed to hold a place in the production line for a new church organ. Discussed was the need for a defined financial management plan.

St. Bridget School Report

Charlene noted on March 5-7 a visiting team of educators will be assessing the school's preparedness for re-accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and Council on Accreditation & School Improvement. The team will review all the ways the school has met established standards and the plan of action and timeline to accomplish further growth. This is a rigorous process and is a major way of substantiating that St. Bridget School is striving for excellence and improvement on an on-going basis. She thanked all who participated in the process, including parents who completed a survey and participated in focus groups, plus input from all which helped revise the school's mission and vision statements.

Parish Life

Michael noted 18-20 people are participating in the current *Alpha* session and it is a very worthwhile venture.

Another round of zip code parties is planned, but with a somewhat different format as the previous ones were purely social.

Announcements

- ❖ Catholic Charities Annual dinner will be February 27th.
- ❖ The 5k Run has been postponed to May.

Bob gave the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Submitted by
Jeanie Robinson