

St. Bridget Church Parish Pastoral Council September 19, 2007

Members Present: Monsignor Carr, Bob Burge, Charlene Bechely, Frank de Venoge, Christian Barrett, Carl Barrafato, Siobhan Dunnavant, Mary Martha Thedieck, Michael Siewers, Jeff Hamm, Kim Hulcher, Billy Reid and Tom Bliley, Jr.

Absent: Mike Kehoe

Guests: John McCulla

Opening Prayer: Siobhan Dunnavant

Approval of the August minutes: By consensus, the Council approved the minutes

Building Committee/Irish Tenor Report – John McCulla

Irish Tenor Report:

- Sponsorship totals = \$20,000
- Net \$36,000 so far
- Good interest outside of parish
- Urge parishioners and friends to come

Building Committee:

- *Organ* – Beautiful artisan design & craftsmanship, powers in music using simple mechanics, compliments the whole church
- 5 yrs. to build
- Estimate to repair the current organ: \$800,000, to sell: \$200,000-250,000
- New organ: \$1,000,000
- The group unanimously voiced their desire to move forward with this project

- *Construction*- contractor soon to be selected for school side and church side
- A clear path is needed
- The financial committee approved Kerner's rendering
- Net gain of seats: 20
- The construction is more to preserve quality
- Jeff Hamm confirmed his desire to be included in future aspects of the building committee
- Feasibility study in the fall pending that the parish will enter a capital campaign

- No iron clad commitment to anything at this point
- 5 yr. plan once adopted

Parish Report:

Monsignor Carr shared some of the reasons for the development of the Diocesan Strategic Planning Process

- Ordination rate can not keep up with demand
- The number of priests is declining, 18-22 priests will retire in the next 5 yrs.
- Bishops do not want to close parishes, there are 156 parishes in the Diocese
- 40% of priests are pastor's at more than one parish
- The number of international priests is increasing and there are great candidates, just not enough of them
- Important meeting being held at **St. Michaels on Nov. 3rd** will begin process of strategic plan for Diocese over the next 5-10yrs.
- There will be a newsletter in *The Bridge* about the upcoming meeting
- **Any** and **all** council members are encouraged to attend
- A copy of *The Catholic Diocese Strategic Plan* was given out tonight
- Council asked to please pay **close attention** to the **six options** of how parishes will look in the future
- Bob Burge and John McCulla have been asked to represent St. Bridget Church at the November 3rd meeting
- Priests are on a soft freeze; this may be an opportunity to further bring the parish together
- We are partnering with other parishes for the health of the church
- Frank de Venoge shared his experience of corporate partnerships and financial support for the Catholic church/school

Parish Life:

Michael Siewers

- Social Ministry: Kristen Hamlin & Kathy Oxford are doing a great job!
- The Willow Oaks Pool Party was a hit with close to 100 parishioners joining in on the fun
- Welcome Luncheon for new parishioners was held on Sunday, September 16
- Alpha will meet on Wed. evenings, 12 participants, dinner, videos, Q&A
- Young Adult Ministry is looking for a recent college grad to head up the ministry

Women's Ministry:

Kim Hulcher

- SBWM meeting Thursday night – Guest Speaker, Kathleen Burke Barrett

- New Bible Study – Full of Grace started this morning
- Women of the church are being asked to come together as a network of support

Parish Community:

Siobhan Dunnavant

- Reported on working through the St. Bridget audit presentation to enhance presentation and improve understanding of our financial situation
- A call for stewardship to increase
- Concrete goals are necessary

Back to school report:

Charlene Bechely

- Reported that all aspects of the school are doing well
- St. Bridget School is off to a good start for the 2007/2008 school year
- Script a great program Jeff Hamm emphasized focus on everyday needs

Closing Prayer was given by Frank de Venoge

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted by
Kim Hulcher