

Parish Pastoral Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 20, 2012

Present: Msgr. Garrity, Scott Russell, Larry Moran, Andrew Cieslik, Walt Hanson, Trish Varga, Jeff Knox, Tom Perry, Larry Lehmann, Mary Hopwood

Absent: Pat Flood

**Opening Prayer- Scott Russell**

**I. Review of Finances published weekend of August 18**

A. Packet Distributed- discussed page by page

1. Msgr. explains increase in budget due to the fact that parishioners are actually seeing results and are therefore more likely to contribute.
2. Msgr. predicts a continued increase in Mass attendance in the foreseeable future.
3. SJN is growing at a faster rate than most other parishes in the Diocese.
4. St. Vincent de Paul was not receiving a check from parish February-May because they had plenty (\$15,000) in checking. Msgr. suggested they begin donating more; \$5,000 is enough cushion money to have in checking.

B. Upcoming events

1. After completion of preschool wing, but before capital campaign for the new parish life center, parish should be back to where it is now, with regards to the debt. Unable to give parishioners a timeline because things are always subject to change with weather, permits, etc.
2. Because of his experience, Msgr. himself, will organize the capital campaign, but is counting on parish and finance councils to help with steering.

**II. Use of Facilities**

A. Liability in Seton Hall- Parish insurance only covers parish functions (in which all parish members are invited). Any charity hosting an event (Knights of Columbus, Ladies of Charity, etc.) is required have their own liability insurance. Private parties will need a rider from their own insurance company—we will need to discuss specific guidelines, rates, etc.

1. Prior to the new policy, the Hall has been used for birthdays and anniversaries, but for now it is strictly for parish functions, and parish groups will always have priority.
2. Booking of Seton Hall must go strictly through Marilyn Derbyshire or Harry Schukman.

B. New wedding policy- because there has been a lot of confusion as to whom doing the wedding and where, no one is allowed to schedule a wedding for church other than Msgr. Garrity. Priests from other parishes asked to do a wedding at SJN must speak with Msgr. to discuss booking.

**III. Committee Highlights**

A. Administration- Larry Lehmann

1. Larry will review liability info from Marilyn and email everyone later this week

2. Formulate review of Neumann's strategic plan-needs assessment
3. Gardening committee to build timeline for seasons
4. Octoberfest- with so much going on now, Msgr. would like to postpone and plan for a Spring Fling
5. Msgr- gardens and rosary walk are completed but want to plant more trees for shade and azaleas around. Pesticide has been sprayed around the fields, volleyball court should be completed soon, wells have been drilled for sprinkler system, and the dirt should be here this week or next to level football and baseball fields. Hopefully before winter, Bermuda grass, gardening, and irrigation systems will be completed.
6. There will be two soccer fields (within football field) and a third in outfield of baseball diamond—would like to host tournaments.
7. Stakes have been set out for new kindergarten wing (current kindergarten will become the new preschool). There will also be restrooms opening to the outside for use during tournaments and outdoor parish functions.
8. Elizabeth Seton and St. John Neumann statues arrived from Rome- will be garden in front of Seton Hall with brick pedestal for Seton (Elizabeth Ann Seton Garden); matching garden in between church and office for St. John Neumann. The issue of vandalism was brought up—Msgr. explained that this has not been an issue lately; frequent use of the gardens should prevent this, but if it happens, will just have to handle the issue.

B. Spirituality- Tom Perry (handout)

1. Plan to begin preparation for Consecration through Mary on Sept. 3 and culminate Oct. 6.
2. Msgr. stresses not only the importance of the Year of Faith, but also that of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese which begins in 2013.
3. Suggestion of having a guest speaker to preach the Masses/be here for a weekend to promote participation in Eucharistic Adoration and teach parishioners about the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Notify parishioners of guest priest prior to this weekend to help them prepare for Mass.

C. Parish and Family Life- Trish Varga (handouts)

1. A parishioner asked for permission to coordinate a play in late spring for the adults in the parish. Topic was about how man fell from God. She would like to take full responsibility of all planning. Consensus was that the play seemed like a good idea and the intentions were good but will need more concrete information before we can endorse it as a parish.
2. The Women's Club was granted permission for a blood drive.
3. St. Vincent de Paul will no longer be hosting the coffee and doughnuts. Would like each committee of the parish council to take over. Msgr. suggested asking 9 volunteer groups (youth, ladies, Knights, etc.) to each choose specific Sundays that they would like to be responsible for hosting.

- The community room will be unlocked and doughnuts delivered; hosts will only need to set up and clean up.
  - Msgr. suggested keeping donation cups in the cabinets to set out during donuts, and the money counters can take care of money on Mondays.
  - Trish suggested each committee bring a ministries board or flyers to advertise/recruit for their ministry.
4. Sr. Elizabeth- SJN is very lucky to have such a highly educated, bright woman to coordinate the adult activities. Msgr. asked all to please help promote her activities. Her calendar in the bulletin is helpful when scheduling spiritual life functions.
- Larry Moran will meet with the sisters to go over plans including Catholic Basics book
  - Religious education starting-meeting for teachers tomorrow and Wednesday
  - Not Your Average Joe- Sr. Timothea said there is a lot of excitement and many attendants
  - Trish-possible conflict in schedule with RCIA (discussions scheduled on certain Wednesday nights)
- D. Youth & Young Adult- Andrew Cieslik
1. With growing youth group, Andrew can be great support to Al Forsythe
  2. Would like to involve youth to participate in/help with other council committees and parish functions (serve as Mass greeters, pass out programs, help with cleanup, spring fling, etc.)
  3. Andrew wants to be sure not to exclude any groups. Msgr.- Catholic singles group is also coordinated by Al
  4. Msgr. suggests that Andrew join Al for a Sunday night youth group
- E. Communications- Walt Hanson (handout)
1. For winter- working on packet to teach visitors or non-Catholics about the décor of our church (dome, stained glass, etc.)
  2. Toying with idea- mostly gospels, for people to appreciate what they are surrounded by. Having announcements, leaflets. Teaching of our décor.
  3. Year of Faith-parish solemnity; parish began in the month of July—suggested July-12<sup>th</sup> could be our solemnity date.
- F. Member at Large-Jeff Knox—No news from the school just yet (beginning of the year)

**Closing Prayer-Msgr. Garrity**

*Respectfully Submitted: Mary Hopwood*