

## **Saint Joseph Parish Pastoral Council**

**Monday, March 18, 2013**

Present were: Fr. John DeRiso (Pastor), Kathy Allsop (Chair), Deacon Brian Ching, CSC, Philip Hicks, Ron Vogler, Jim Hasse, Patric Richter, Amy Barrett, Jennifer Ihns, Ed Jordanich, Greg Lorch, Emmeline D'Agostino, Bruce Jones, Jenny Monahan, Janel Charlton, Mary Stepney, Peggy Gizzi, Stephanie Pries, and Carolyn Sherman. Trish Maher was absent.

Fr. John spoke of the election of our new pontiff, Pope Francis I.

### **I. Preliminary Matters**

**A. Opening Prayer:** Ron Vogler opened the meeting with prayer.

**B. Minutes:** The minutes of the Pastoral Council meeting of January 28, 2013, having been reviewed by members, were approved.

### **II. Living Our Faith, Building Our Future**

Fr. John announced we have thus far received 176 pledges for our capital campaign totaling \$3.16 million.

This weekend after all the Masses, parishioners will be invited to tour the 711 Colfax building to observe firsthand the work being done to prepare the new Ackles Center for the preschool (opening this fall) and parish offices. This should be a nice lead-in to the launch of the General Phase of the campaign which will take place at Masses the weekend of April 13/14. Families will be asked to consider a 3-year pledge of \$3700.

There are a number of Quiet Phase prospects still open, so there is some potential to garner a few more pledges from that phase of the campaign.

Fr. John has received 17 applications for the position of Preschool Director, six of whom he and his committee have selected to interview over the next week. Thirty-four students are currently registered for the new preschool, and we expect there will be more once a director has been hired and the preschool has been advertised outside our parish family. There is the expectation that this first year will not yield a capacity enrollment as families may be hesitant to withdraw their children from a preschool where they are already established.

As renovations began on the 711 Colfax building, architects discovered that with the additional footage to the building, more parking spaces were required. The new design includes 70 parking spaces. This appears to satisfy our need for teacher and staff parking and lessens the urgency to secure other property for a parking lot. However, Fr. John is still concerned about the eventuality of needing additional parking for Sunday Masses. Bruce Jones brought up the fact that once the gym is a reality, sporting events, particularly when scheduled concurrently with other parish events, could cause parking issues as well.

Another Council member shared that his City contacts have given him the impression that the northwest corner of Hill and Colfax is simply not going to be sold to us.

### **III. Partnership with Overseas Apostolate - Fr. John DeRiso/Deacon Brian Ching**

Fr. John reviewed discussion from past Pastoral Council meetings: In January 2012 a new initiative was introduced, the idea to establish a relationship with an overseas Holy Cross Apostolate. The diocese had asked Fr. John to consider twinning with a local parish since we are on solid financial footing, but Fr. John wanted to see if the parish would be more interested in pursuing a partnership with an overseas Holy Cross apostolate instead. Council members shared their thoughts at that time and expressed an interest in pursuing the idea, with a particular interest in including the school children.

In August 2012, the subject was again discussed, but Fr. John preferred to place it on a back burner because of the intense focus needed for the launch of the *Living Our Faith, Building Our Future* capital campaign. At that time he charged our newly arrived Holy Cross seminarian, Brian Ching, with the task of researching the idea and laying out some options for us. Since that time, Deacon Brian has investigated and pursued the issue with the Christian

Action Commission.

Deacon Brian presented the Pastoral Council this evening with a handout outlining his findings on developing a relationship with an overseas Holy Cross apostolate. The goal would be the mutual enrichment of the lives of parishioners at both schools and parishes, as each would have much to learn from the other, as they share their spiritual lives of faith. This initiative has been discussed now with Pastoral Council, Pastoral Team, Finance Council, and Christian Action Commission. Recently, the parish community was invited to attend a presentation on global solidarity, at which time this initiative was discussed. It has become apparent that the way to make this work most effectively would be to send people to the apostolate where they can experience firsthand their community of faith and way of life, observe the culture and need, and then have them return to our parish to offer personal witness. With this in mind, if this initiative is to become a reality, Deacon Brian hopes to organize a site visit this summer with Holy Cross Seminarian Pat Reidy.

An African apostolate quickly became our best option, specifically St. Andrew Primary School in Bugembe, Uganda. Language barrier, travel restrictions, cost prohibitive site visits, dangerous regions, etc. made other places less ideal choices.

The handout (attached) lists cost estimates, length of trip (10-11) days, a loose itinerary, and other information on the proposal. There would be some limited funding available to help subsidize a small part of the cost of the trip for parishioners, should they need it. Planning time is short, but adequate, as one need only secure passports and visas, and take appropriate shots and pills one month in advance.

Deacon Brian asked for feedback from the Council. Fr. John asked if this is something we as a parish want to do. He wanted to be clear that he does not wish to have the CSCs impose this idea on the parish.

Bruce Jones said this sounds like exactly what our new pontiff has asked us to be about.

Emmeline D'Agostino said she believes the school connection is the most awesome part of the package – school children love the idea of sponsoring goats or flocks of geese for schools overseas. To have a personal relationship with the individuals at a sister parish would be wonderful.

Jenny Monahan loves the idea; to get out of the political right and left of our lives here and just be globally Catholic would be wonderful.

Jennifer Ihns envisions a family here joining with a family there to become prayer pals and form personal connections.

Ed Jordanich asked how large the parish is and Deacon Brian said it is very significant in size and hard to count, but easily 15,000 strong. Ed asked if we should consider asking another parish here to join us in our efforts since the parish is so large, but Fr. John seemed to think that would risk “muddying the waters” and confusing the relationship.

Janel Charlton asked who would manage overall the relationship. Fr. John sees this as falling under the purview of the Director of Community Life and Outreach, with assistance and support from the CSCs.

Pat Richter asked if the diocese would allow this or would ask that we twin with a local parish instead, but Fr. John said that he expects they would be fine with this decision and celebrate it with us.

Philip Hicks asked for more information as to what exactly we are wanting from the parish – money? Travelers?

Deacon Brian said monetary support could certainly be part of it, but not in the capacity of meeting an annual goal or holding a number of fundraisers. More focus would be on the spiritual commitment, regular prayers and intentions for our overseas friends, letters to and from shared in the bulletin, perhaps helping with a roof repair or some other project when needed. Fr. John said he envisions directing, for example, our annual Lenten alms-giving collection for our “sister” Holy Cross apostolate.

Fr. John shared that at one time the parish envisioned sharing a portion of our parish income with the poor and needy. Perhaps we could designate that portion for our sister parish, if we were to decide to go that route.

The topic will be discussed further, but Deacon Brian asked Council to consider whether they might like to join the team for the site visit, or know of other parishioners who would. The idea would be to send people who would be good at bringing the experience back to the parish and reaching out to parishioners to encourage their excitement, enthusiasm, and participation in the project.

#### **IV. Pastor's Report – Fr. John - tabled**

#### **V. Commission Highlights**

**A. Stewardship (Ed Jordanich):** The Spotlight on Ministry talks that have been given thrice now after Masses have been favorably received. John Conway spoke on HOPE Ministries, the Monahan family on Hospitality Ministry, and Erin Seeley on the CCD program, and in each case new volunteers stepped up to seek more information and sign up to serve. The commission would like to continue this practice with monthly talks.

The Stewardship Renewal Weekend originally planned for the end of April has been postponed in view of the launch of the General Phase of the capital campaign at the same time. Instead, they will continue with the spotlight talks, then perhaps in the late summer or fall put together an event that will tie all the stewardship opportunities together and give parishioners another chance to consider their options. Fr. John explained to Charmaine Torma (Director of Stewardship and Development) that he does need to have actual stewardship forms on file for parishioners as this is one of his criteria for assessing school families in order to grant them the subsidized rate of tuition for the school.

Carolyn Sherman said she likes the idea of promoting stewardship as a year-round way of life and perhaps promoting that perspective will support a “rolling sign up” as people respond to the spotlight talks. Janel, too, thought the sign up in September would be a good way to remind people of everything they've heard from the pulpit throughout the year, and give them yet another chance to volunteer to serve.

**B. Christian Action (Janel Charlton):** They met in February and talked about reviewing Catholic Social Teaching together as a commission in order to have a better understanding themselves so they can work towards educating the parish on the subject. They are working on that independently.

They also intend to publish more updates in the bulletin throughout the year on available options for families to do together in the area of Christian Action such as prayer cards and a monthly holy hour.

Janel said her Commission also discussed the idea of developing a relationship with an overseas Holy Cross apostolate and are very excited about the prospect.

Also in the discussion process is another Corby series to be held later this spring.

Fr. John mentioned that he recently passed on to Debi Haug (Director of Community Life and Outreach) information about a Matthew 25 Home Build sponsored by Habitat for Humanity, and Janel said that was an excellent event that our parish participated in last fall as well.

**C. Christian Formation (Jennifer Ihns):** The March meeting was cancelled because of snow. The Scripture Study continues one evening a week during Lent. Second season of ARISE is going strong. RCIA candidates and elect are nearing the end of their time together. The parish continues to pray for each of them via the prayer cards that have been available at the church entrances. Council also expressed the hope that there could be pictures of each of the RCIA candidates and elect on display at the back of the church.

**D. Community Life (Peggy Gizzi):** Fish Fry was a great success, good turnout, much appreciated help from the Girl Scouts. The Good Deed Strips are still being placed on the back table after Masses during Lent in lieu of cookies and juice and have been well received.

**E. Liturgy Commission (Carolyn Sherman):** Triduum planning has been a focus. Palm Sunday setup will be this Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Holy Saturday Art and Environment will be at 11 a.m. Footwashing at the Holy Thursday Mass has been discussed and it has been agreed that we will change our practice to bring it in line with the liturgical rite as it is written. Therefore, instead of having footwashing stations throughout the church, there will be twelve seats at the altar and Fr. John (presider) will do the foot washing. This is a big change for St. Joseph Parish, and the Liturgy Commission agreed that if the practice needs to be changed, there should definitely be education of the parish ahead of time. We should aim to make it a fitting representation of the parish, and make it highly visible to allow the congregation to still feel part of the rite. While this change may not be well received by some, Deacon Brian explained that the entire purpose of this event in the Holy Thursday liturgy is to be a symbol of

Christ's washing the feet of His apostles and charging them to a life of service. The rite aims at imitating Christ's actions at the Last Supper. An insert will be included in this weekend's bulletin explaining the change.

**F. Operations (Jim Hasse):** Charmaine has reported 2013 Auction chairs have been secured.

Fr. John said the Buildings and Grounds Committee advised that the school be tuck-pointed and that will happen this summer. It is costly, but after considering options, it seemed best to do it all at once, saving money in the long run. It will be paid from the general operating budget. Renovations have begun on the 711 Colfax building. The church pew project, part of the capital campaign, is being planned, though there has been some challenge in finding a good color stain to match the beams/ceiling in the church.

**G. School Board (Bruce Jones):** At last week's meeting it was announced that InfoSnap, electronic online school registration, should be up and running next month. Families will receive a code and further information soon. InfoSnap will also fill in Power School, allowing that feature to be used more widely, including SchoolReach which is a communication tool for school families who will be reached by phone, email or text message for important announcements such as school closings.

Bruce said he and Deacon Brian set up class systems so that the school children were able to watch Pope Benedict depart the Vatican and the white smoke heralding our new Pope via the smart boards and projectors in their classrooms.

Kindergarten enrollment has leveled out and is now back to 50 students due to families relocating and/or choosing a growth year. Fr. John said we have two on the waiting list who may now be accepted.

Preschool enrollment as of last week stood at 34 children.

## **VI. Concluding Matters**

**A. Election of Council members:** At our next meeting we will close nominations for new members to Pastoral Council, and then invite chosen candidates to attend the June meeting for discernment onto Council. Outgoing members are: Kathy Allsop, Philip Hicks, Stephanie Pries, and Ron Vogler. The nominating committee must consist of Fr. John, Kathy Allsop (outgoing Chair), one member whose term is ending, and one appointed member (i.e. a Commission representative). Suggestions for nominees are welcome from Council members or the parish at large.

**B. Ordination:** Deacon Brian Ching will be ordained a Holy Cross priest at 2 p.m. on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at the Basilica at Notre Dame. A reception will follow in the Dome immediately after the Mass. He will then celebrate his first Mass at 10 a.m. on April 7<sup>th</sup> here at St. Joseph Church with a reception immediately following in Fanelli Hall. All are invited to attend both events.

Next meeting: May 20, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Slott.