

PASTORAL COUNCIL OF NATIVITY – ST. CHARLES FEBRUARY 2, 2006

Present: Fr. Driscoll, Howard Gotell, Tony Morley, Maria Kirkpatrick, Terry Laurette, Gerry Cormier, Jim Nelson, Geoff deGannes, Lillian Bray, John Kellegrew, Pat Robinson, Frank Allen, Sharon Murphy, Sharon Fairfax, Pauline Pettigrew, Jeanne Bourque, Palm Cormier, Darlene White
Regrets: Jim MacDonald, Sister Teresa Currie, Edna Walsh

The meeting was held in Nativity Church Hall at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 2, 2006.

Opening prayer.

Minutes from meeting January 5th were approved (Darlene, Sharon F.).

OLD BUSINESS

A 'thank you' letter was sent to Trinity- St. Stephen's United Church from Tony. We received a letter back from Trinity- St. Stephen's thanking us for the \$500. donation, which they will be directing to their benevolent fund.

A national mission poster was received by Father and is posted in the back of the church.

The Archdiocesan annual workshop will be held in October, "Call to worship, sent to proclaim". The diocese is looking for local input on workshop content. Howard hopes members of our Liturgical committee will attend.

PASTOR'S REPORT

The life of the parish appears to be going relatively well these days. There was a very good turnout for the coffee breaks after the masses last Sunday. There has been good attendance at the Sunday worship and other activities in the Parish.

Bert McWade spoke after the weekend services two weeks ago about the special computer link-up with bingo halls in the province. It seems to have brought a new life to the Parish bingo on Wednesday nights; a re-structuring on the local level should reduce the risk of a loss on any given night. They are also looking for more volunteers to help with the bingo.

Delegates from our pastoral council will meet in Springhill on February 21st to share with other parishes in this district the results of the questionnaire on the format, function, role, process of election, etc. of the councils.

Income tax receipts will be available this weekend and our combined Finance committee will meet on February 13th. Members of that committee will be asked to prepare a budget and present the financial picture of the Parishes before Lent.

NEW BUSINESS

Howard reported that our youth group is meeting every second week. Angie has moved to Riverview, NB and is not available every week but is doing her best to stay involved with the group. She is planning on putting together another 'Think Fast' for the group during Lent. Frank inquired if any interest in the youth group was received during the Stewardship Appeal in

November; Howard reported that there was none. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of an ecumenical group being formed in the town. Howard commented on the popularity of the youth group that Don Miller oversees and said that there has been no discussion by the Ministerial Society on forming a combined group.

Lillian and Darlene reported on the activities of the Catholic Women's Leagues. Both groups will be holding their annual meeting in the near future and are very busy making jam for the national convention.

Tony read a letter received by the council from Charlie and Sandra MacInnes stating their concerns regarding the dissolution of the Forward in Faith Committee and inquiring about the status of the recommendations of that committee. They were also inquiring about the future plans of the council in addressing the ongoing process of Forward in Faith. No response was prepared.

Discussion was held regarding the letter Tony received from Peter Belliveau, dated November 30th, questioning the role of the pastoral council. Peter asked "if the pastoral council is not the proper entity for address of the parishioners' concerns, then we expect the courtesy extended for you to inform us as to whom concerns should be addressed". No response was prepared.

The "Diocesan Pastoral Council 2005-2006 Study Topic" survey was completed by council as a group for the delegates to bring to the Regional DPC meeting in Springhill in February. Discussion followed regarding the "role" of the council. Geoff suggested we have each group within the church community attend a meeting and give a brief update on their activities. Frank felt our role was to be "receptacles of concern" for the parishes.

FORWARD IN FAITH

Tony reported on the "open" meeting that was held at Nativity on January 25th.

Discussion on the formation of a new "Forward in Faith" committee was held. Jeanne submitted a "discussion draft" to the council with suggested recommendations and tasks for the review committee. Geoff felt it was premature to form the new committee before the "Transition" committee had an opportunity to review the results of the current 6 month – 6 month plan. Frank felt that the "perception" of the parishioners should be addressed. It was suggested that an ad hoc committee be set up to form the mandate and composition of the new committee.

Motion – "We appoint ad hoc committee to bring a mandate and process to be followed for the new Forward in Faith Committee to the March council meeting." (Darlene, Jim) approved by council. Jeanne, Jim, Sharon Murphy and Howard volunteered for the ad hoc committee.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting Thursday, March 2nd at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted;

Pat Robinson