

PASTORAL COUNCIL OF NATIVITY – ST. CHARLES
APRIL 6, 2006

Present: Fr. Driscoll, Howard Gotell, Maria Kirkpatrick, Gerry Cormier, Jim Nelson, Geoff deGannes, Lillian Bray, John Kellegrew, Pat Robinson, Sharon Fairfax, Jeanne Bourque, Darlene White, Sister Teresa Currie, Edna Walsh, Pauline Pettigrew,

Regrets: Tony Morley, Frank Allen, Sharon Murphy, Susan MacDonald,

Opening prayer

Minutes from meeting March 2nd, 2006 were approved (John, Jim).

NEW BUSINESS

A report was submitted by Jeanne outlining the workshop in Halifax that was attended by 6 members of parish council. Edna explained that the reason the diocese changed the name of Parish Councils to Pastoral Councils was to include the Pastor in the decision making in the parishes. Sharon felt that most parishes were having similar experience with changes. Father reported that the diocese was preparing a video.

Howard provided an update on the new Forward in Faith Committee. A number of parishioners have been nominated. Jeanne was surprised that she was not included with the list provided by Howard. Following a discussion on the mode of election a motion was passed “that the ballots be available at the back of the church and in the bulletin”. (Geoff, Pat)

Darlene presented a report for the committee who were preparing a method to seek submissions for a new name for our Amherst parish. The committee suggested we invite parishioners to submit suggestions for a new parish name complete with a short history describing the reason for their choice. Submissions are to be made in writing, signed and submitted to Maria Kirkpatrick by May 30th. The number of submissions will determine method of voting for the selections of a new name and all parishioners will have an opportunity to vote for their choice. A motion “to accept proposal of committee” was accepted by council (Darlene, Jim).

PASTOR’S REPORT

1. Our complete Lenten program will come to a culmination with the celebrations of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum next week. The weather has been very favourable and we are confident that the celebrations will be well attended.
2. The number attending the Diocesan Workshop on Parish Pastoral Council was truly impressive. A video is being developed from this workshop which we hope can be used as an introduction to the council if we decide to adopt the suggested three year cycle.

3. The Knights of Columbus have hired a bus to take as many as forty-eight people involved in our Confirmation class to the Cathedral for the Mass of Chrism next Tuesday afternoon. We are truly grateful for the Knights support.

4. Some minor renovations have been carried out in the kitchen of St. Charles Parish Hall at the suggestion of the CWL.

5. Our combined Finance Council is continuing its work with audits being completed. Budgets are being prepared for both parishes; Father suggests we move the budgeting process to the fall of each year so that it is more in line with the fiscal year.

6. Father will be away on retreat the first week of May and on vacation from the 10th to 24th of May. Father McNeil will preside at the weekend liturgies.

7. Deacon Rick's 25th celebration will be held on June 2nd.

CWL REPORT

Lillian reported that all 240 bottles of jam were finished and the league has been very busy preparing for their annual dinner.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Howard impressed with work being done by confirmation call. NET team met last Thursday evening and was well attended and received. Gratitude to the CWL was expressed for providing refreshments.

OTHER

Transportation has not been found for residents of Havelock Terrace, Howard will arrange a taxi.

Masses will move back to St. Charles on May 14th.

Father read a letter he received from the Archbishop on April 6th. The Archbishop has received many letters from parishioners in Amherst regarding the changes taking place. He would like a decision before June 30th and recommended a facilitator who will conduct a "reserved fund" study of both facilities in Amherst. The facilitator is an engineer by trade.

A motion was passed "to hire the consultant as recommended by the Archbishop".

Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting Thursday, June 1st at 7 pm at St. Charles Parish Hall.

Respectfully submitted;

Pat Robinson