

MINUTES
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
December 7, 2006

The Parish Pastoral Council of the Holy Family Parish met on Dec. 7, 2006 in the church hall at 7:00 PM.

Those in attendance were: Adrien Amirault; David LeFurgey; Veronica Richards; Celina White, Jeanne Bourque; Edna Walsh; Sharon Fairfax; John Kellegrew; Gerald Cormier; Darlene White. Those unable to attend this meeting were: Jerry Hallee and Sharon Murphy, Lillian Bray, Sister Teresa Currie and Jim MacDonald. Peter Vriend was also in attendance. One parishioner sat in on the proceedings.

Tony Morley, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves as new members were in attendance. Father led us in prayer with Sunday's readings and asked for comments on the readings.

Tony asked Jeff deGannes to give the nomination committee report. There were six vacancies and there were five volunteers who went in by acclamation: Jerry Hallee, Adrien Amirault, Celina White, David LeFurgey and Veronica Richards.

Election of Officers:

- Chairperson: John Kellegrew
- Vice Chair: Celina White
- Secretary: Sharon Fairfax

Tony then vacated the chair and John took the position of Chairperson. He asked if there was anything anyone wanted to add to the agenda and Howard added Social Justice and it was marked as 3.1 on the agenda

Father Vernon gave his pastor's report and welcomed everyone and thanked them for accepting to assist him and the Pastoral team.

- He expressed that we have come this far with the dedication, leadership and prayerful struggle of the members of the Parish Pastoral Council.
- Being grateful for all who contributed in any way in the coming together of the two parishes with the continuance of support throughout the projected plan with the closing of both parishes and the creation of our new parish hall and church: Holy Family Parish.
- Serious arrangements are being made for the future sale of the excess properties.
- Reorganization of the bingo through the effort by Deacon Howard and Roy and Sandra McInnis.
- \$10,000 will be transferred from the bingo fund to the building fund making a present total of \$18,000.
- Beautiful and moving acceptance Ritual of the Catechumens.
- Christmas preparations are taking place with regards to going to Trinity- St. Stephen's United for the major Christmas Eve celebration.
- Pauline Pettigrew's position as secretary will be terminated early in January once the books can be closed. Charlene Moore, will have her office at the Rectory on Church Street by the end of January.

Veronica asked how long she had been with us and Father answered that she has been with us for 22 years and that she was part time and that there will be a severance.

Peter Vriend, Chairperson of the Parish Management Committee, gave his report from their meeting of Nov. 1, 2006. He reported that the group discussed the purpose of their committee. The group is "to assist the parish in achieving the goal of a new parish center and church. In conclusion this would involve more than just the management of the building process.

His report included the notation that the deliberations of his committee and their advice to the parish council should always be considered. His report stressed the necessity to keeping the parish in a sound-operating basis financially. As well as making sure that future church properties are easy to maintain and operate at the lowest possible cost.

His committee suggested that more thought be given to the various groups that use the present church and hall and a better coordinate of time frames that will enable the church to be constantly heated for one event each day and instead, if possible to have more use while the building is heated. His team consists of Bill Brine, Jeff deGannes, Tony Morley, Jim Nelson and Bert McWade. Jim will be going to Sussex in the near future to look at a church there which is using Geo thermal heating and their cost for heat and lights a year is \$8000.

- Properties of Nativity to be put on the market as four packages.
- Leaving the name of St. Charles as long as the church stands and using the name of Holy Family Parish with the new buildings.
- The stewardship committee had asked that the parish give 10% to charity (8% to Catholic charities and 2% to local charities) His committee felt this would send the wrong message at this time because of financial difficulties.

Peter asked that we consider these three recommendations above and with regards to fundraisers with the Knights of Columbus who are considering building a new building so that there are not two fundraisers going on at the same time.

Gerry Cormier asked if the reason for the four parcels of land was to bring in more revenue and Peter confirmed this. Would it be sold as one if someone came in and wanted to buy all? Yes was the answer and Father added that there were already three parties interested in the Nativity property.

Edna asked if it was considered to combine with Knights of Columbus but it was felt that it should not be part of the church with the bingo.

A DVD presentation given by Father Brian Dunn, was then watched which consist of a workshop on the Parish Pastoral Council. The teachings are hopefully going to be beneficial as reports from the various committees such as the Parish Management Committee and the Parish Pastoral Council through discussion comes to a consensus as to what approach should be implemented to the particular committee report.

Chairperson John Kellegrew felt that it was important to still make motions and vote. Howard answered that this is part of the Pastoral Council process and with consensus when a vote is taken that everyone can walk away respecting the decision and not dispute it after they leave the meeting.

Howard reported that Deacon Rick will be celebrating his 25th anniversary Dec. 18th at 7:00 with a lunch prepared by the CWL along with presentations.

Pauline Furlong is working on a Parish News Letter that hopefully will come out three times a year possibly Advent, Lenten and in May. Material can be submitted to Pauline and there is a Holy Family Link that can be used to submit articles.

Howard advised us there will be a Social Justice Conference on March 3, 2007 Howard added that it is an excellent introduction into the lives of those on limited income and a game board is used that is an eye opener to the struggle to make ends meet by these people.

A Stubenville Youth Conference will be happening at St. FX University in Antigonish from August 3rd to 5th for students from Grades 9 to 12. It will be a weekend of music, prayer and teaching that will enkindle faith in young people from across the region.

The next meeting will be held on Feb. 1, 2007 and Darlene White moved to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fairfax
Secretary