

**St. Joseph Parish  
Baraboo, WI**

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
Meeting Minutes-March 24, 2011**

**Present:** Fr. Bakke, Peter Walechka, Craig Skrivseth, Mary Bebbler, Bill Campbell, Frank Friar,  
Tom Filipiak, Deb Stieve, Dennis Wolfe,

**Excused:** Lisa Runnels, Rosie Lee, Bob Covoloske

**Staff Guests:** Kathy Siberz, Dan Fitzpatrick, Tim Lowe

**1. Opening Prayer** – led by Fr. Bakke

2. Minutes of the February 17, 2011 meeting were approved.

3. The Council welcomed Dennis Wolfe who has returned to the Council because of a job change.

**4. Commission Reports**

\*Social Justice: Kathy Siberz reported on the Peanut Butter Lunch program for the April Spring break. This year's campaign was very successful, with other churches participating. The Commission toured the St. Vincent de Paul store, seeing the new food pantry. Additional Commission projects will be discussed at the next meeting.

\*Faith Formation: Nothing to report at this time.

\*Liturgy: The Commission has focused on plans for Lent & Holy Week. Fr. Bakke invited men of the Council to share in the Holy Thursday Foot Washing ceremony, explaining that only men can participate according to directives of the Church, because it is symbolic of Jesus ordaining His Apostles at the Last Supper, instituting the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

-Tom Filipiak, Craig Skrivseth, Peter Walechka, Frank Friar, Dennis Wolfe offered their feet.

\*Parish Life: The Commission has not met.

**5. Finance Council:**

The Council will meet in April. Dan Fitzpatrick reported that the parish is operating in line with the budget...all bills are paid, Bingo & SCRIP are doing well. The Parish relies on a good Parish Festival in June, 2011.

**6. Parish Office Remodel Project**

Fr. Bakke reported that it is going well, with completion by the week of April 4<sup>th</sup>. The project will provide an office for both Fr. Bakke and Fr. Dulli. There will also be a Conference Room allowing the rectory to be a residence for the priests, rather than an office as it has been for many years.

**7. 2011 Parish Survey**

Because the majority of responders to the Survey were over 55 yrs., it was decided to ask the participants at the April GIFT program to complete the survey if they haven't done so already. This will hopefully give a broader range of input. The results will be brought to the April meeting of this Council. Father thanked Kathy Bullock of the parish for her work on this project.

**8. St. Joseph School**

Tim Lowe & Dan Fitzpatrick talked about an initiative to study the expansion of St. Joseph School, seeking the Council's approval to move ahead with a detailed study regarding this feasibility.

Dan shared that as part of the WRISA accreditation process, a school survey was done in the Fall, 2010. A large number of respondents would like to see a return of the 6-8 grades in our school. If approved, we could open the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Fall, 2011, add 7<sup>th</sup> grade in Fall, 2012, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Fall, 2013.

Tim Lowe shared that the faculty is very positive about this possibility, and that with potentially larger classes in the public school, our smaller class sizes (limited to 24 youth) might be quite attractive to parents, plus the continuance of a faith-based education.

Dr. Lowe also shared that the school fundraising project has been quite successful for the 3<sup>rd</sup> world, and the "change for change" program will continue through Lent.

Council discussion led to a consensus that such a study should be pursued. The next step will be a financial analysis that Dan Fitzpatrick will work on and review with the Parish Finance Council. The next step will be a presentation/discussion with parents to determine their level of support for the future viability of this proposal.

### 9. New Parish Logo

Dan Fitzpatrick reported on the good work of the EMDT(Enrollment Management & Development Team) and the level of cooperation between the staffs of St. Joseph & St. Cecelia Parishes. One of the marketing initiatives the Team has been working on is a new parish logo to replace the current picture of St. Joseph Church. Consideration was given to our partnership with St. Cecelia's so to create a logo that would be expressive of the churches.

Dan presented the design that has been suggested by the Team. The Pastoral Council offered feedback in particular suggesting that the logo a more clearly defined symbol of faith, like a cross, as part of the design. This will be taken back to the EMDT and any further suggestions can be e-mailed to Dan F.

### 10. Upcoming Events of Note

(a) 2011 Annual Catholic Appeal for the Diocese of Madison continues with Commitment Weekend March 26-27. Fr. Bakke will facilitate the in-pew process and Council members offered their help for the distribution and collection of pledge forms during Masses.

-Mary Bebbler addressed the confusion among people regarding the Tax and the ACA. It was clarified that every parish is assessed a tax based on the size of the parish, and parish income. This tax is a line item of the parish budget, and there is no longer a special collection for it. If a parishioner would like to support the parish's tax payment, a restricted funds gift may be made to St. Joseph's.

The Annual Catholic Appeal is administered by the Diocese seeking additional funds to support the ministries of the Diocese that serve parishes and individuals in the Diocese, including Camp Gray, the Diocesan Youth & Retreat Center near Baraboo. The assessed "goal" for St. Joseph's Parish is \$62,084 – note that the parish is not required to make up the difference if that goal is not met through the ACA pledge drive/collection.

(b) March & April GIFT Programs – March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 9<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

(c) May 8<sup>th</sup> – First Communion Mass, 12:30 p.m. (no 6:00 p.m. Mass that Sunday)

(d) May 26<sup>th</sup> – St. Joseph School Graduation Mass

(e) June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> – Parish Tractor Pull & Festival

\*Peter Walechka encouraged greater participation by everyone to make it a great success.

11. Fr. Bakke clarified Bishop Morlino's recent article regarding Eulogies at Funeral Liturgies. He Explained that this is the practice of the universal Church, not just the Diocese of Madison. Eulogies/Words of Remembrance are appropriate to visitations or luncheons. The practice at St. Joseph's has been offering a few minutes before the Funeral Mass begins, and Fr. Bakke has guidelines for this.

### NEXT MEETING

**THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011**

**6:00 p.m.**

**(a week later as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in 2011 is Holy Thursday)**