

**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday April 23, 2009**

**MEMBERS:** Herb Weber, Amy Bachmeier, Andrea Cowell, Mark Peterson, Bruce Stepnick, Bill Sonntag, Rick Weber, Barb York

**EX OFFICIO:** Roseann Schoenherr, Fr. John Mitchell, Larry Erickson

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

**ST PIUS X /HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL PRESENTATION:**

Kathleen Groettum, principal, and Jeff Kemp, chairperson, brought a sample copy of the 2008/2009 yearbook. The yearbook presents a striking picture of Catholic school community. The council members complimented Kathleen on the yearbook and asked if a sample could be placed in the commons area for the parishioners to peruse. Kathleen gave the mission statement, a brief history, philosophical and educational objectives of the school. She brought a geographical map of the parish boundaries. St. Pius X is the smallest geographical parish in the archdiocese. Historically, the smallest graduating class of St. Pius X School was 9 and the largest class was 48 students. Religion and evangelization are at the core of the education and are incorporated into all subject areas. Enrichment classes after school for six weeks each semester were added this year after school hours. Extended Day is offered after school for working parents on school days only. The school is included in the CAA athletic conference. The challenge continues to be the demographics, economics and whether Catholic education will continue as a priority. A consortium of St. Mary's, St. Jude's and St. Pius X staff met to discuss common challenges. Perhaps there could be some collaborative efforts such as staff training that each school could share costs to save money. There are no quick fixes but the school staff and parents are making extensive efforts toward long-term visioning. Jeff Kemp spoke about the SAC committee. The committee is planning for next year trying to make the right culture for the school. It is not a decision-making body just advisory. He spoke of Kitui Kenya partnership program. Korean exchange programs are looking for Catholic schools in the diocese to place students. This may be a good opportunity to pick up some students next year. The Youth Activity Night – Excite Program was very successful this year. It was suggested that St. Pius X graduates could be featured in SCOPE articles. The SCRIP program will continue throughout the summer for additional income. Although the enrollment is currently down for next fall, the energy of the staff continues to be extraordinary. It is important to be optimistic and recognize the value and benefits of Catholic education. We are by no means in dire circumstances.

**MINUTES** of March Pastoral Council meeting were approved as written and will be posted in the commons area.

**ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT:** Larry Erickson

- Parish envelopes with a mail in envelope with the St. Pius X address will be used by all parishioners including those with Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) If a parishioner is out of town, their contribution will be mailed directly to St. Pius X.

- State of the Parish talk at each Mass by Larry Erickson. Larry will succinctly ( in 7 minutes) give an update of our financial position and explain the ways the contribution monies has been spent to improve the environment and save money in the long run by creating efficient equipment and procedures. Pius X volunteers have been a large contribution to the parish by saving money that would have been spent out of the parish budget. Turning off the boilers early will save significant dollars for the parish. The parish is not in financial ruins nor is the school. Positive attitude is important in financially difficult times.
- The pictorial directory is expected for distribution in the summer.
- Legacy Program will be explained and encouraged beginning in May. The Catholic Community Foundation is helping people to consider giving to the parish as part of their estate planning.
- Parish Council applications are due by April 29. There have been eight persons nominated as good candidates. They will be called by the outgoing council members and asked to apply. The elections will be May 16.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee:** no report

**Building and Grounds:** no report

**Vocations Committee:** May 30 Ordination of Deacon Allan Paul Eilen at Cathedral in St. Paul. Knights of Columbus and CCW are sponsoring a bus to bring parishioners to the Cathedral. Father Eilen will preside at the June 7<sup>th</sup>, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. A reception will follow. Jack Haben, St. Pius X parishioner is in his second year at St. John Vianney Seminary.

**School Advisory:** no report

**Worship Committee:** As a response to the military initiative, Masses on May 16/17 will include an Armed Forces focus with the servicepersons remembered in the prayers of the faithful, patriotic music and prayer cards distributed for parishioners to pray for the military service persons and their families.

**Christian Formation Commission:** Commission reviewed goals of the year and came up with an impressive list of successful new programs in the 2008/2009 year. Steve Villa has been hired as the new director of the Fireproof music group. Fireproof Band will sing at the Mary 31 Mass.

**Social Ministry Commission-** Women's Enrichment program has very successful this year. The Mentoring Ministry is going strong. The Military Ministry is being supported by distributing prayer shawls to each service person and their families. The "hope definition" wall received 500+ messages. Youth Social Ministry collected \$2500 to sponsor the orphans; Catherine Moellner attracted many parishioners in her talk about anxiety and how to handle it. Planning for Eternity continued to be a successful and important ministry. The Paint-A-Thon has 30 volunteers this year. The numbers of clients serviced by Social Ministry continues to climb. Respect Life Committee plans for support of

Mother and Father's Day events, Roof Raisers, the St. Pius volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, are making plans to serve food for two days this year's building project, Kim Williams and Kathy Eberwine are trainers for Vulnerable Adult seminars, 1000 pounds of food and \$465 were collected in the March food drive for the WBL Area Food Shelf.

**Website Committee:** The committee continues updating the website with volunteer descriptions and opportunities at St. Pius X.

**Youth Group:** no report

**ADORATION SCHEDULE PASSED**

**NEXT MEETING MAY 28, 2009**

Respectfully submitted by Barb York