



In Attendance: Tom Donahue, Kim Antolini, Rick Bonen-Clark, Scott Campbell, Eileen Gallagher, Tom Rider, Theresa Rouse, Joyce Zagrobelny, Msgr. Richard Bellow, Debbie Hains, Father Pat Hoare, Dave Hynes, Teri Liuzzo, Deacon Robert Murphy, Deacon Louie Pais, Elizabeth Polo, Donna Smith, Stacey Wackerman.

Excused: Arelis Herman, Art Packard, Jeff Sumeracki, Christopher Tucci, Greg Scharlemann

Absent: Deacon Ron Sherwood

Guest: Laura Hogan (Adult Education - Why Catholic?); Neil Gallagher

Tom Donahue welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes: The July 10, 2007 meeting minutes were approved by the council, pending several minor edits.

Why Catholic? Update: Laura Hogan provided a number of impressive participation statistics on the huge success of Why Catholic? during its first session in the Spring of 2007. She went on to explain current challenges and proposed solutions while rolling out the 2nd session, which starts the week of October 7, 2007. We'll be using multiple communication channels to encourage additional participation for the 2nd session, including bulletin and pulpit announcements, visual display of commitment cards, and a video.

Goals and Objectives Review: Tom Donahue led an idea development session on getting parishioners "actively involved" in their parish. The result of the session was that we need to:

1. Implement the Volunteer Needs tracking system. This will be the responsibility of the Stewardship Commission working closely with the Communications Commission. Action: The Stewardship Commission requires an update to the needs assessment by September 1 from all commission heads. Subsequently, quarterly updates (i.e. December 1, March 1, June 1) will be required. The Stewardship Commission will work with other groups to capture their volunteer requirements (e.g. Knights of Columbus, Home School, Scouts).
2. Enlighten our Parishioners as to the needs. The Communications Commission will be responsible for informing our parishioners by communicating the Volunteer Needs through such media as the weekly bulletin (similar to the way the Liturgy Commission has already done), webpage, bulletin boards, ministry cart, narthex thermometer, witness talks from Commission heads informing the congregation of our volunteer needs, etc. It was suggested that we share the pastoral council organization chart with the parish, as part of this exercise.
3. Inspire participation. Finally, we need to work with the Stewardship Commission to inspire parishioners to get involved. The following ideas were discussed: annual ministry fair; small groups (e.g. Why Catholic?) to take action together; witness talks about the ministry; personal invitations; include a commitment card in the welcome packet, and; host another commitment Sunday.

It was also suggested that we consider tracking turnover statistics by commission to understand trends and proactively address issues when and if they arise.

Commission Reports

Liturgy Commission: This was an informational session on upcoming events. Nothing requiring action or input from the Pastoral Council was discussed.

Community Life: There are several new/modified outreach ideas being considered by the Community Life Commission, such as: hosting Thanksgiving dinner for certain families in the Huntersville community; supporting a Peruvian mission; finding a home for the > 350lbs of school supplies collected by Vacation Bible School.

Communications Commission: Several needs were raised, including contacts for English to Spanish translation, and were filled during the meeting.

Education Commission: Aside from upcoming events for the Fall, we discussed the need to fill one current and three projected vacancies on the Education Commission. The Commission has identified two interested individuals and is pursuing at least two additional members.

Stewardship Commission: There will be speakers at Mass on two upcoming stewardship awareness weekends to inspire participation. In addition, the ministry cart will be manned after every Mass. The Stewardship commission is also looking for members due to turnover.

Family Life Commission: The commission will offer a new ministry, starting at the beginning of the school year; a nursery attendant, trained to care for autistic children, will be available at the 10:15AM Family Mass each Sunday.

Old Business: None.

New Business: There will be a new church fund raiser for the Fall, a 5K race to benefit construction funds for the new church. The race will be held on October 13, 2007.

Neil Gallagher reviewed and analyzed capital campaign pledges. The review resulted in a very specific and targeted parishioner communication plan which is currently being executed (e.g. thanking the many people who have exceeded their pledges, informing others of their pledge status, etc.). Neil will conduct another analysis in the Fall to analyze the impact of the targeted communications approach. It was reiterated that the pledges are an important component of the church approval process with the diocese. The communications are expected to be sent out in September and October.

The Council also discussed the merits of requesting additional pledges to be contributed to a general capital fund, as many parishioners have their capital contributions included in monthly budgets. It may be more difficult for parishioners to increase contributions later after decreasing them at the end of the current capital campaign. Or, is it more appropriate to wait for a specific fund raising goal/requirement, such as the debt reduction campaign? Regardless, it was noted that in the near future, there would be another campaign to raise funds for furniture and fixtures such as pews, altar, sound system, etc. No action was taken.

Currently, our cash and pledge totals are at 62% of the total cost of the new church. Typically, 70% is required to obtain diocesan construction approval.

Thank You Notes: Thank you notes will be sent to Jennifer Pienta for coordinating vacation bible school (VBS) and to Outback Steakhouse for the 200 meals served at VBS.

Pastor's Comments: We are looking for a place to store the door donated for the new church. The main altar in the church where Monsignor Bellow went to seminary may be available, as that church will be razed. If that altar is donated to St. Mark, we'll have to arrange for transportation.

Town of Huntersville would like St. Mark Catholic Church to install a roundabout at our entrance/intersection. Discussions are ongoing and no decision has been made.

The Eucharistic Congress is scheduled for late September. Masses will be cancelled on that Saturday, September 22, 2007.

The St. Mark school year is starting with over 700 children attending Kindergarten through 8th Grade.

Schedule coordination for church events will be a challenge in our facilities. Please work with Trish McCaa as needed.

Finally, a new Cancer support group will be starting up.

Closing Prayer: Deacon Robert led the closing prayer.