

**Saint Francis Pastoral Council Minutes
Xavier Hall, Carbondale IL
25 September 2006**

In attendance: Laura Butler, Juliana Cruz, Father Bob Flannery, Chuck Grace, Sister Rosemary Henrichs, Laura Kidd, Julie Laczynski, Ana Migone, Margie Mitchell, Steve Schauwacker, Ed Varsa, Doris Weaver

Excused: Bob Bauman, Jane Boardman, Leslie Ferraro, Toni Intraiva

Prayer/Reflection: Father Bob opened the meeting at 7:08 PM, by reading from the Gospel of Saint Mark, followed by a reflection on the reading.

Call to Order: L. Butler called the meeting to order. New Council member, Ana Migone, was introduced and welcomed. The Council still needs one more member.

Visitors: No visitors.

Approval of Minutes, 21 August 2006: The following corrections were made to the August 2006 minutes: Under *Committees and Reports, I. Building & Grounds*: The Parish is waiting for permission from the Diocese to proceed with signing the contract that will allow the engineer to proceed with the next step in estimating the cost of a new heating and air conditioning system. The second correction Under *Next Meeting*: The first twenty minutes of the September meeting will be devoted to a discussion of the Bishop's Pastoral Letter (not the next twenty meetings.)

Father Bob made a motion to accept the minutes, with corrections; M. Mitchell seconded the motion; motion was carried on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Capital Campaign: Father reported on the most recent meeting of the Capital Campaign Committee. Andy Bjornberg is putting together the renovations and related costs in a way that will be used to help explain the distribution of the renovation funds. After all the costs are determined and prioritized, the information will be made available to all parishioners. As a reminder, just some of the items that will be included in the renovation of the Hall are the heating and air conditioning system, possible asbestos removal and new roof, water seepage, kitchen renovations, etc.

B. Parish Website: Father announced that we have a new webmaster, Suzanne Nasco. Thanks to Tom and Leanne Furby for their work on the Parish website. M. Mitchell suggested that we have a link with the Diocesan website.

C. Annual Outdoor Mass and Picnic: The August Mass and picnic was well-attended. One suggestion was to have name tags available for everyone, to make introductions easier.

D. Newcomers' Welcoming Dinner: The Newcomers' Dinner was very well attended (45-50 people). One suggestion was to have a babysitter available to entertain any children who might be attending.

E. Kneeling Pads in Church: Father announced that kneeling pads for the church need to be installed by December 12, when the Bishop will be here celebrating the Feast of Guadalupe.

F. Bishop's Pastoral Letter: A lively and thought-provoking discussion was held on Part One of the Bishop's Pastoral Letter. For the October meeting, the Council will discuss Part Two.

COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

A. Heritage Club: J. Boardman reported that the Heritage Club has the upcoming year's monthly activities planned and these events are well attended.

B. Liturgy: Father reported that the committee is preparing for the All Soul's Celebration in November. As usual, there will be a social gathering in the foyer of the church after Mass, hosted by the Pastoral Council.

C. Women's Club: M. Mitchell reported that the Fall Fest will be held on September 29. At the November meeting, the Club will be celebrating Father's birthday with a meal. As a reminder, the Cookie Walk will be held in December.

D. Knights of Columbus: E. Varsa reported that there was good attendance at the first regular meeting of the Knights. The Tootsie Roll Drive took in over \$3600, despite the very bad weather. As usual, the Knights will be helping with the Fall Fest.

E. Family Life/Respect Life/Vocations: To highlight Respect Life Month, there will be a pamphlet in the bulletin each October weekend. The topic of each pamphlet pertains to an aspect of Church teachings on various related subjects.

F. Community Life—Health Committee: D. Weaver is seeking new members for this committee. Father and A. Migone announced that the Hispanic community is going to have a Health Fair this weekend.

G. Finance Council: S. Schauwacker reported that the Finance Council is getting the budget finished for this year. He reported that the Parish will be short with revenue this year and that the Parish is still behind on Diocesan bills. Ironically, people are giving more, but expenses continue to rise, especially the expenses related to our Parish's support of Saint Andrew School.

H. Faith Formation: Dave Ebenhoh from the Newman Center will give talk on the Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Thursday at Saint Francis Xavier Church. Father also reported that some of the PSR families would like to see about the possibility of having PSR on a weeknight instead of between Masses. It was suggested that survey be done with the parents, to see if there would be a possible weeknight for PSR instruction.

C. Grace announced to the Council and he and his wife, Barb, are Cursillo representatives. If anyone is interested in pursuing a Cursillo weekend, Chuck and Barb would be happy to talk to them.

As a reminder, TEC and Quest experiences are also available for teens.

I. Building and Grounds: M. Mitchell and Bill Borgognoni attended one meeting of the Capital Campaign Committee to discuss the amount of money needed for Xavier Hall renovations. Additionally, the bell tower might be leaking, and there might also be asbestos in the roof, which will add expense to the monies needed.

J. Youth Representatives: J. Cruz reported on the World Youth Day weekend that she attended in Belleville. The theme was "True Greatness" and there were many good speakers and activities throughout the weekend. Thanks to Micki Weaver and Gina Hill, who were chaperones. Eight teens from high school attended; seven youth from middle school attended.

K. Saint Andrew School: D. Weaver reported on a number of upcoming activities at Saint Andrew School including a mass-a-thon, the DARE program, chili contest, Red Ribbon week, and a Halloween party and parade. A. Migone will now be the representative on the Council for the school. Thanks to D. Weaver for her past reports and continuing support of the school.

L. Social Justice: Father reports that Elsie Speck continues to participate in and organize a wide variety of social justice events. Father is hopeful that a social justice committee, perhaps on the cluster level, can be formed.

M. Organ Committee: Father Bob reported that members are still needed for the Organ Committee, which will be included in the Capital Campaign. A donation for \$1500 came in recently for the Organ Fund; many parishioners continue to work towards getting an organ installed in the church.

N. Stewardship Committee: The next Stewardship meeting will be held this September 26. Time and Talent surveys are being collated.

O. Cluster Council: There were no Cluster Council meetings over the summer. There will be scheduled for October. There needs to be at least one more member on this Council from Saint Francis Xavier Parish.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Pastoral Council Retreat: Father would like to have a Pastoral Council Retreat this fall, possibly as a Cluster activity with Newman and Saint Andrew's.

B. Cluster Mission: All three parishes continue to do more Cluster activities. Teens in Spirit is hoping to include many more Saint Andrew youth this year.

There is a continuing discussion on having a Cluster mission. Because there hasn't been a mission held locally for over 5 years, this might be a good time to have one. Sister Rosemary reported on the mission she held in Pinckneyville, which was very successful and well-attended.

C. PSR Registration fees: There has been no negative feedback on the increase in PSR registration fees.

D. Items from Closed Church: Father obtained some flower stands for the Church. The other items were either gone or not in an appropriate style or size for our worship space.

E. Good Samaritan Representative: Father reported that it is our Parish's turn to have someone on the Good Samaritan board. The board meets on the third Sunday of the month. If any one is interested, please contact Father Bob.

F. Pro-Life Dinner at Saint Andrew: There will be a Pro-Life Dinner hosted by the Knights of Columbus at Saint Andrew's on October 2.

G. Vocation Directors: Not discussed.

Pastoral Associate's Report: Sister Rosemary announced that Celebrate Youth weekend is this Sunday. As usual, this will have a second collection. This year, for the first year, there is a special collection envelope for this weekend in the monthly envelopes.

There are 10 RCIA candidates, who are very eager to learn and get involved.

Pastor's Report: Father Bob reported on the new signs that will be made by Mike Buhman, as his Eagle Scout project. The signs will also advertise Parish events and English and Spanish Mass information.

Other: A. Migone shared information about the Hispanic community. People are working on becoming catechists and energizing the Hispanic ministry. The Rosary in Spanish will be said once a month at Saint Francis Xavier Church on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 PM. There are also plans to start a Bible study in Spanish once a month. They are also starting to plan for the Feast of Guadalupe in December.

Prayer and Adjournment: E. Varsa made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by M. Mitchell and unanimously carried. The meeting ended at 9:16 PM with prayer led by Father Bob.

*Respectfully submitted,
Laura K. Kidd*