

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH  
CARBONDALE, IL  
24 October 2005**

**Goal: “To enhance and increase the meaningful involvement of more parishioners in the spiritual and social aspects of our Parish community.”**

- 1. To improve adult religious education activities.**
- 2. To increase Mass attendance.**
- 3. To increase activities and attendance at activities.**
- 4. To improve communication between Parish leadership and the community.**

**In attendance:** Ben Balsano, Bob Bauman, Laura Butler, Father Bob Flannery, Jack Hagan, Sister Rosemary Henrichs, Laura Kidd, Margie Mitchell, Ed Varsa

**Excused:** Amber Crawshaw, Jane Boardman, Leslie Ferraro, Toni Intravaia, Doris Weaver

**Absent:** Nick Ferraro, Chuck Grace, Steve Schauwecker

1. **Prayer/Reflection** – Chair L. Butler opened the meeting at 7:08 P.M.. Father Bob led the opening prayer.
2. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** Chair L. Butler called the meeting to order.
3. **Visitors :** Rosio Arnold was invited to come and join the Council in viewing a special video on Hispanic Ministry (which was produced by a grant from Sisters of the Adorers through the ABA). The following points were featured in the video:
  - >’Faith, Family and Fiesta’: these are three very important features that typify the the faith formation of Hispanic families;
  - >one very important part of faith celebrations is dance in cultural celebrations (i.e., Our Lady of Guadalupe);
  - >an important role of Hispanics in the Southern Illinois community is migrant labor that they supply;
  - >migrant children go to local schools and, to all expectations, will be staying in the United States;
  - >Hispanic labor force is relied upon;
  - >reasons for coming to U.S.: freedom, opportunity (economic), jobs,
  - >Blessed Virgin is especially revered; she is considered the symbol of the natives fight for freedom;
  - >As Elsie Speck explains: “..the Hispanic is population growing...[the Anglo community] have to be more of a welcoming presence... [Hispanics] are here to work, provide services... [people in Southern Illinois should] be more welcoming and realize they [Hispanics] are contributing to the economy and are children of God...”;
  - >Hispanic children in school experience both cultures;
  - >language, family, religion/church: important to Hispanic culture.

After the video, Father Bob led a discussion on the Hispanic community and how we, at Saint Francis Xavier Parish can be more welcoming and help them. Ms. Arnold described some of the work that she does with the Hispanic community, especially in her work to help newcomers to the region. She stated that faith seems to be the main commonality between the Anglos and the Hispanics. Thanks to Ms. Arnold for contributing to this discussion and helping the Council start a dialogue on the role that our Parish can help in welcoming the Hispanic community.

4. **Approval of Minutes of September 26, 2005:** There were two additions to the September minutes: The overall Diocesan ABA goal has not been met and the Women's Club meeting is on November 9. With the addition of this correction, Bob Bauman made a motion to approve the September 26, 2005 minutes; Margie Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

5. **Agenda Prioritization:** Agenda Item #8 was brought forward; see Item 3.

6. **Old Business**

a. **Current Goals and Objectives:**

"To enhance and increase the meaningful involvement of more parishioners in the spiritual and social aspects of our Parish Community."

1. To improve adult religious education activities.
2. To increase Mass attendance.
3. To increase activities and attendance at activities.
4. To improve communication between Parish leadership & the community.

Father will contact Suzanne Schmidt to help set new goals at a future Council meeting.

b. **Capital Campaign:** Father is still looking for another co-leader to help with this; he is going to send a letter out on this soon to invite them to the Building & Grounds meeting. Father reported on the preliminary estimates for the work that needs to be included in the Capital Campaign to renovate Xavier Hall. The report from the Diocesan engineer has not been located.

According to Father, the costs/estimated expenses that we do know include the following:

>Parking lots: Two bids were received: (1) \$16,350 (reseal only) from ET Simons; (2) \$24,500 (reseal only) Town and Country. An estimate to completely redo the parking lots: approximately \$39,090;

>Roofing: Two bids: (1) \$54,800; (2) \$62,300; an additional \$3,800 would be needed for additional trim work;

>Retaining wall: This was completed at a cost of \$5,800;

>Dome light: \$850

>Curtains in Hall: At least \$7,000 each; 4 curtains @ \$7,000: \$28,000 (at least);

>Floors (linoleum): \$3,000;

>Clean trim around hall: no estimate at this time;

>Heating/AC system: \$150,000+

>The total amount will probably be close to \$500,000; this amount also includes a \$200,000 organ cost.

>A Building & Grounds meeting will be scheduled for next week. Supposed to have a B&G meeting last week, but it couldn't be scheduled; one for next week is planned.

> E. Varsa brought up the issue of installing a handicap-accessible entry for the first floor (the front of the hall). He also reminded the Council of the seepage that appears in the storage room used by the Knights of Columbus and that this repair also needs to be included in the renovation costs.

c. **Parish Website Updates:** Remember to get any items for the website to Tom Furby. .

## 7. **Committees and Reports**

a. **Heritage Club:** The Club continues with monthly activities.

b. **Liturgy Committee:** Father: The Committee had a meeting on September 28. An upcoming event is the the All Souls' Day Mass, which is being organized by D. Weaver. A social will be held after the service in the back of the Church. Another November event is the Thanksgiving Mass. October blessings are going well; this weekend will be celebrate Priesthood Sunday and the Knights will host refreshments after the Masses on Sunday.

c. **Women's Club:** M. Mitchell: The next meeting is November 9, which will be Father Bob's birthday dinner following Mass at 5:30 which will be celebrated for the deceased women of the Parish. Approximately \$2210 was cleared on the Fish Dinner and those proceeds will be donated to charity for hurricane relief. The profit on the baked goods will be donated to the Youth Umbrella Fund.

d. **Knights of Columbus:** E. Varsa: They will have a meeting November 9. There are three new members set for initiation. This Sunday is Priesthood Sunday and the KCs are serving refreshments after the Sunday Masses. At the Masses, E. Varsa will give a brief thanks for our priest, and will also briefly explain how the KCs support priests.

e. **Family Life:** There was a Living Rosary on October 6.

f. **Community Life--Health Committee:** J. Hagan: The Committee has not had a meeting this month. One person expressed an interest in this ministry through the Time and Talent survey. SIH is going to offer a presentation on this ministry in November and will repeat it in January and in March.

g. **Finance Council:** J. Hagan reported that the new weekly contribution goal is \$7000. This amounts to a 41% increase of the amount that is currently being collected each week. He reported that none of our expenses are excessive; the main increase in expenses is the result of our support commitment to Saint Andrew School, which is approximately \$81,000 this year. A small increase in contributions (about 10%) may be

expected after the 'treasure' phase of the stewardship initiative starts. J. Hagan reported the Parish is also in arrears (about \$23,000) for the Diocesan tax. J. Hagan stated how important new contributors will be to reaching our financial needs and commitments. The next Finance Council meeting is Thursday, October 27 at 8:00.

h. **Faith Formation:** T. Intraivaia submitted a report, which was read by Sister and may be found as Attachment A to these minutes.

Sister also reported that Confirmation will be Friday, May 5. The Bishop is having a meeting with those who train confirmands on November 10; the purpose of this meeting is inform the instructors on the information that the youth will be expected to know for their Confirmation. There is a Confirmation retreat scheduled for November 19, and a bus will be rented to take the confirmands to the retreat.

i. **Building and Grounds:** Father reported that a meeting will be held next week. John Zubahlen is no longer our custodian. Until another permanent custodian can be found, one person has been hired to set up the hall for events and do general custodial duties; another person has been hired to do cleaning once a week. Bids from janitorial services were too high for our current budget.

j. **Social Justice:** The Newman Center and Saint Francis Xavier Parish held a session on the death penalty on October 23 at 7:00 P.M.; 25-30 people attended. Father would still like to form a core group to help Elsie Speck with special projects.

k. **Youth Representatives:** There were no Youth Representatives present. Sister Rosemary gave the Youth Report:

>The first Teens in Spirit was held on October 2 and the Althoff Choir performed at Mass and shared a meal with the youth. The theme of this day was Confirmation and service; community leaders involved in service activities were invited to come and share speak about the many opportunities for our youth to do service on a number of levels (local, regional and national). In order to help instruct our teens in the Catholic faith, Sister developed a condensed catechism 'fact book'. The teens are expected to study the information in this book; they will be tested. This will help them to get a solid foundation in the beliefs of the Catholic faith.

>Fish Fry night: Quite a few youth helped with the September Fall Fest Fish Fry;

>NCYC: The youth who are attending the National Catholic Youth Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, will be leaving this weekend; they are taking donated items that will be given to hurricane evacuees;

>A Ghost Walk will be held this weekend, led by Scott Thorne. After the Ghost Walk, the youth will share a meal and may also participate in a game night;

>A lock-in for the high school youth will be held on November 10.

l. **Saint Andrew School:** No report.

m. **Small Christian Communities:** Sister Rosemary reported that there is some interest in forming SCC groups. A brief discussion was held on this, and groups may be started during Lent.

n. **Organ:** No report.

o. **Stewardship Committee:** Bob Bauman reported that the monthly stewardship meeting with Saint Andrew Parish will be held October 25. He is working on compiling the data from the Time & Talent surveys; information has been distributed to contact people.

p. **Cluster Council:** Father Bob reported that he Cluster Council met on October 20, 2005. Tom Smith from Pastoral Services is in charge of coordinating the clustering process for the Diocese and was at the meeting to give a report on the clustering process. He also shared a letter from Bishop Braxton that relayed the Bishop's commitment to the clustering process. Mr. Smith also took some information about our clustering process that will be included in his report to the Bishop. Father Bob related that it appears that Newman Center will not be hiring a pastor this year, and he and Father Gary will be working with the Newman Center to work out Mass schedules. The next Cluster Council meeting will be at Newman Center on December 1. Dave Ebenhoh, the Director of the Newman Center, is the new chair of the Cluster Council.

8. **In-Service: Video on Hispanic Ministry :** see Item 3 above.

#### 9. **New Business**

a. **Lights Fantastic:** Registration is due for Lights Fantastic and volunteers are needed to prepare, man and pull the float. Father will contact S. Schauwecker for information on the current status and condition of the float.

b. **Parish Patronal Feast:** The feast of Saint Francis Xaver is December 3. To commemorate this feast day, a light refreshment will be served after the Sunday Masses on December 4. Special mention will be made at all the Masses on the life of our patron.

c. **Custodial Duties:** Please see Item #7i above.

d. **Other Matters :** None.

10. **Pastoral Associate's Report** – Sister Rosemary reported the following:

- >There are now 7 RCIA members;
- >Two female sponsors were found through the Time & Talent survey;
- >The new babysitting team is doing well;
- >Events are continuing to be planned for the youth.

11. **Pastor's Report**—Father reminds us of the Newman Gala on November 12, at 6:00; Thanksgiving in Carbondale will be hosted by Bethel AME on November 17

12. **NEXT MEETING:** November 28, 7:00 P.M., Xavier Hall
13. **Individual Responsibilities:**
  - >Father: set a meeting time for B & G committee; contact another potential leader for the Capital Campaign; contact Suzanne Schmit; get information on the Lights Fantastic float status and condition;
  - >M. Mitchell and L. Butler will coordinate the reception for the All Souls' Day Mass;
  - >Each Pastoral Council member is asked to bring one dozen cookies to serve at the All Souls' Day reception.
14. **Prayer/Adjournment:** L. Butler adjourned the meeting at 9:32 P.M.; Sister led the closing prayer.

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**PSR Report, Toni Intravaia, October 24, 2005**

1. Registration is now at 177, which does on include all the Teens. Our Kindergarten is down to 5 member—the usual number is now at Saint Andrew.
2. My Adult Scripture Class on Tuesday has 12 registered. We are doing the Paulist Press “Jesus and the Gospels.” It is doing very well. We had new members last week.
3. The Children’s Liturgy at the 10:00 Mass has about 20 kids attending.
4. Sister Rosemary, Sister Pat and I attended the Enrichment day in West Frankfort on Saturday October 8th.
5. The Saint Francis Xavier PSR was host to the Belleville Presentation of the National Directory of Catechesis on Monday October 17th. We had catechists from Carbondale, Pinckneyville and Herrin.
6. The Living Rosary lacked about ten to have a complete rosary. It was most inspiring to all. The RCIA group prayed the rosary this past Wednesday. And as most of you know, we had two articles in the *Southern Illinoisian* on the Pet Blessing.
7. November brings the 6th with the Rite of Enrollment of the Juniors and Seniors as they begin preparations for Confirmation. And on the 19th they will travel to Our Lady of the Snows for Confirmation Retreat.