

St. Bede Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2007

Present: Fr. Abe, Dave Clemens, Toni Collingwood, Tina Straight, Bill Theroux, Cathy Fronheiser, Sasha Diggs, Jeannie Trainum, Greg Ballentine, Noel Fort, Peg Crews, Francis Capone, Rosanne Black, Bill Burke

Absent: P. J. McQuade, Sally Minich,

Dave called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and Peg led the opening prayer. The agenda for the meeting is Attachment 1 found at the end of the minutes.

1. Approval of Minutes: The March 2007 minutes were approved.

2. 2007 Budget Process: Bill Burke gave an update on the Finance Committee as follows:

- The current budget is on track.
- The Diocese has issued an updated version of the 'Call to Stewardship' with additional procedures on internal controls of collections. Bill stated that St. Bede already follows some of these procedures and will do a review of current practices to insure compliance with the new Diocese guidelines.
- There will be written procedures for ushers and the counting teams will not have married couples on them.
- The internal controls at the Campus Catholic ministry need to be reviewed. In addition, there need to be a study to determine if envelopes are need at CCM.
- The Diocese will audit all parishes. Presently the Diocese has two auditors, one for parishes and one for schools.
- The Finance Council is concerned about the lack of recognition for those who donated to both the new church and organ. Father Abe commented that there has been a delay in procuring the acrylic wall that would have the names of those who contributed to the church. This wall would be placed in the Church Commons. A similar plaque is planned for the organ but the location of it is yet to be determined.
- The new budget, due to the Diocese on May 15, 2007, is about the same as the current budget.
- Over \$100,000 has been budgeted for painting and new pews at the CCM.
- The Bishop plans an additional assessment to all parishes for financial support for the Diocesan schools. Only some small parishes in the western part of the Diocese will be exempt. Father Abe will ask for an exemption since the parish already contributes some \$80,000 to Walsingham through both a scholarship fund and our budget.

3. Joint Retreat - Review: Dave asked for impressions from the February retreat. The following are some comments made:

- Expanding our current home in the context of 'Around One Table' (AOT)
- How to get more people involved in parish activities?
- Another comment was "maybe people don't want to participate. It could be that the only thing these individuals want is to just attend Mass.
- Change the way 'Greeters' actually greet parishioners a Mass on Sunday.

- There is a need to revise the mission statement.
- Need more visibility of both FC and PC member.
- Bill commented that we had 34 goals last year and that none of them were resolved.
- There was discussion that the AOT should be writing the Parish Mission statement.

4. 2007's Major Goal: The list of potential 2007 goals previously presented by Bill is Attachment 2 (Attachment 4 of February 07 minutes). Changes to the original list are in bold for easy identification. The following briefly describes the current feeling:

- Goal 1 - Needs a lot more work that could be done by a sub-committee. There was a question as to whether this task should be performed by the AOT.
- Goal 2 - Eliminate.
- Goal 3 - Eliminate.
- Goal 4 - This should be done by the AOT.
- Goal 5 - This should be done by the AOT.
- Goal 6 - Cathy remarked that we do this every time we recite the creed at Mass and questioned as to whether it was necessary.
- Goal 7 - There was agreement that this should be done in sub-committee. Bill, Peg and Dave will be this sub-committee.
- Goal 8 - This has already been accomplished.
- Goal 9 - It was felt 'We Walk by Faith' would address this.
- Goal 10 - There was some discussion that the proposed "Pastoral Outreach Ministry" could undertake this goal.
- Cathy proposed rewriting the Mission statement as a goal and Peg suggested that WWBF should be a goal.

5. Pastor's Report: Father Abe read a letter from the Bishop concerning the future relationship between St. Bede and CCM. The following are some of the major points of that letter:

- CCM will remain with St. Bede and no future parish is planned.
- CCM will continued to be funded by St. Bede and will not operate separately.
- St. Bede will make all major repairs to the CCM.
- The Diocese wants St. Bede to relocate all office functions to the Ironbound campus and will provide future funding for mortgage reduction for the new office building.

We closed with a prayer led by Jeannie.

The next meeting is May 23 at 7:00 in the Church Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis Capone
Secretary

Attachment 1: April 2007 Agenda

St. Bede Catholic Church Pastoral Council

"St. Bede Parish Pastoral Council prayerfully follows Christ as servant leaders to our parish community by gathering in prayer, discerning the direction of the Holy Spirit, and empowering others to serve so that all may be one in Christ."

April 25, 2007 – 7:00pm

Conference Room, St. Bede Catholic Church

Opening Prayer – Peg Crews

- 1). **7:02-7:05pm** **Approval of Minutes**
David Clemens

- 2). **7:05-7:20 pm** **2007 Budget Process**
Peg Crew/John McCormack

- 3). **7:25-8:00pm** **Joint Retreat - Review**
David Clemens/Greg Ballentine

- 4). **8:00-8:35pm** **2007's Major Goal**
Bill Theroux

- 5). **8:35-8:55pm** **Pastor's Report**
Fr. Abe

Closing Prayer – Patrick J. McQuade

Next PC meeting:	May 23 – 7:00-9:00pm – St. Bede
Newcomers Reception	June 3 Francis Capone Toni Collingwood Tina Straight

Attachment 2: Goals - 2007

St. Bede Catholic Church
Pastoral Council
Goals – 2007

This is the document I presented to you two months ago. **Changes are in bold for easy identification.**

1. Revalidate as goals those aspects of “One Table” that have not been implemented.

Larry Fronheiser said this best: (I paraphrase) Ten years ago, a group of people like us decided to proceed with a new church. Along with that, they identified a number of obstacles to the success of the new church.

We are still struggling with some of those. Rather than re-do that valuable work, we should validate that those items unfinished are still legitimate goals that we should pursue.

This goal should be considered.

2. Increase parish awareness of the ministries of St. Bede Church and invite parishioners to participate more fully. **An article was in the last newsletter on this. This goal should be eliminated, but their needs to be some effort to increase ministry involvement by parishioners.**
3. Increase participation in the Church by parishioners. **Eliminate ... same as # 2.**
4. Update the Master Plan and ensure its compatibility with the Parish mission statement. **This looks like work for the Core Committee.**
5. Reevaluate the space we have aimed at better utilization. **Delete.**
6. Help people recognize their Baptismal calling. **The originator needs to define this better.**
7. Review (and revise, as necessary) our Constitution and By-Laws. **This is work for a subcommittee.**
8. Make our parish a better place for our young families that encourages their greater participation in Church activities. **Discuss ... is this a done deal?**
9. Determine the reason some consider St. Bede Church to be “not welcoming” and devise strategies to mitigate that perception. **Discuss.**
10. **Bring back to the Church those alienated Catholics who have left ... for whatever the reason.**