

**St. Bede Pastoral Council**  
**Synopsis of Meeting on June 23, 2004**

**Present:** Greg Ballentine, Rosanne Black, Monsignor Carr, Charles Leahey, Betty Morris, Celeste Prezioso, Don Seger, William Theroux, Tess Thome, Marianne Wrightson

**Absent:** Dave Clemens, Jay Colley, Toni Collingwood, John McCormack, Mike Powers, Monica Rettig, Miriam Saguto, Dick Woestman

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and William offered the opening prayer. The minutes from the May meeting were approved.

**Election of Vice Chairperson:** The Chair asked for nominations for Vice Chair and an election was held:

- Rosanne Black was elected Vice Chair of the PC

**Parish Ministries:** The Chair started a review of the several parish ministries and considering whether or not a PC member was needed for each i.e., some are covered already or may not need a liaison.

- It was offered that someone should be assigned even if only a contact point i.e., do not have to attend their meetings. This would create a link between the PC and all ministries that could be helpful in the future.
- All agreed and a list was circulated for all to indicate where they could be the contact person.

**Committee Reports:**

- Social Ministry: The Chair reminded everyone that the Social Ministry report had been distributed via e-mail.
- Liturgy Committee: The group had just met the night before and minutes from that meeting will be forthcoming. A new program, seeking people to sign up to be offertory gift bearers at each mass, is about to be launched. Guidelines as to appearance, etc. would be written up. The goal is to have more participation by more people (families) and also to get more school children involved – especially at the 11 am Mass. The same people would not be assigned each week and names of who is assigned would be published similar to the list for Communion Ministers, Altar Servers, etc. The program is expected to start by early August. The ushers like the idea. Once started this would also provide the Parish with a pool of people who might be interested in other ministries.

**Old Business**

**Alzheimer Support:** From the last meeting the Chair opened a discussion on the topic brought to the council by a parishioner i.e., Alzheimer patient's caregiver support. The idea of an out reach group to support caregivers had wide appeal within the PC.

### **Alzheimer Support** – continued

- The parishioner had made a poignant presentation. How do we do this? Why isn't there a St. Bede neighborhood support group? The solution is not at the PC or the staff level but at the neighborhood level. Why not start two more neighborhoods in the next 6 months? We have to get this going.
- People need to be aware of the need and that they cannot help unless organized e.g., the Kingsmill neighbors. People have to step forward for their neighborhood. Is there anyone responsible for neighborhood committees? Currently Fords Colony, Kingsmill and Governors Land have neighborhood groups.
- The neighborhoods have been mapped, PC members have met on this and we should get a report from them at the next meeting.
- An article in the Newsletter for July does mention that a parishioner has a need.
- The Vice Chair offered to begin to develop this program and with the help of 1 –2 people they could start the effort. It was suggested that those individuals formerly in the Stephens Ministry might be good candidates for such a group – they are well trained. The Vice Chair will follow-up with the former Stephens Ministers and with those who have mapped the Parish neighborhoods. Comments followed that this is a worthwhile effort and it would require the help of the entire PC at the neighborhood level. This would be a ministry with neighborhood programs within it.
- There is need to continue to put energy into the liturgy, to Life Teen and Catechesis. If we had the money we would hire 2 more people: a Minister of Community and a Spiritual Director. There are many requests for “family living advice.” We need to help people “on-site” in their communities and to help people help each other.
- The Vice Chair will also get the parishioner who raised the issue involved.

**Phase II Committee Report:** It was reported that the first official meeting of the Phase II Committee was on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Meetings of this group are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month at the Parish Center. Phase II has stages:

- The group is in the process of developing a strong base of understanding by reviewing the past
  - Understanding how we got to where we are today – the history and the process
  - Understanding the pastoral vision of the church – Phase I
  - Understanding what Phase II was projected to be
- The group will speak with Phase I leaders
- Prayer for guidance
- Seek guidance within the Catholic Church
- Integrate “*We’ve Come This Far Through Faith*” into the Phase II process
- Seek input from the parish at the right time

In addition to the above the group will:

- Have a volunteer to record the minutes, review current and projected finances, develop timelines and focus areas, think in terms of the greater Williamsburg community and St. Bede in that community

Phase II work is a building effort (additional structures to support Christian formation, fellowship formation, etc.) and it involves planning for the future as well as considering those aspects of Phase I that are unfinished.

**Vacation Bible School:** This program, run jointly by St. Bede and the Presbyterian Church, requires that children be 4 by July 1<sup>st</sup> in order to attend VBS. This is contrary to the Virginia school system that states that a child who is 4 by Sept. 30 can start school. The result is that some children are excluded from attending the VBS with what the Virginia school system would say are their peer age group. The St. Bede coordinators should work with the parents in getting this issue resolved. Some children from St. Bede are not attending the school because of this and it is not good for the children or for St. Bede. This aspect of RE program should be considered under the Phase II effort.

**Bulletin Announcements:** In regard to the recent bulletin announcements about the PC e-mail address being available (for parishioners to contact us) and that we are in the commons area after Masses for discussion. What has been our experience so far with these two opportunities?

- There have been a few contacts from parishioners after the Masses but not significant volumes. Regularly receive positive comments from visitors.
- One member related that he spoke with a couple who are new to the Parish and who live in Fords Colony. They want to volunteer. He will get their names as potential supporters for the new support group ministry.
- We should develop a personal contact program for new parishioners.
- The PC received a message from a parishioner regarding the roping off of some pews prior to Mass. These are used to seat late arrivers so that there is less disruption of Mass. This is a liturgy issue and the PC should respond. The Secretary will draft a response and after reviewing with the PC Board it will be sent to the parishioner.

**Tasks Completed and Result of Action:** The floor was opened to discussion of how we are doing with each of the PC Goals (based upon our concerns and recommendations documents developed over the past months).

- Goal number 3 is underway and several tasks completed.
- There is a need to have a program for contacting and involving new parishioners (Goal 2; Hospitality/Outreach). A list of new parishioners and their neighborhoods would help. It is hard for those from small communities (e.g., those outside of Kingsmill, Fords Colony, Governors Land) to get active and involved. The neighborhood communities should act as a small town church.

- St. Bede is large (7000 people) and it is a community of communities. We should get this done (neighborhood communities organized) and it is the right vision. There should be a way in Sunday public ministry to identify and encourage the growth of this idea.
- 50 men attended the recently held retreat.
- As to Goal 4, the search for a Youth Minister continues and the committee will meet this coming week. They are still reviewing the job and an evaluation sheet has been put together. They have 3 responses to the ad so far.

**Newcomers' reception:** The reception went well and the anniversary Mass was beautifully done.

### **New Business**

**“We’ve Come This Far by Faith” document:** How do we merge this document with the PC Goals?

- The Bishop is meeting with Parishes and he is interested in implementing this document. Our session with the Bishop will be at the end of August. The Bishop will meet with the Pastor and then have a separate meeting with the head of the PC, the FC and one other person appointed by the Pastor. We have to provide these three attendees with factual and complete information.
- Some of the points in the document have obvious links to our goal objectives: e.g., Transmitting our faith tradition to the next generation = Goal 4, Action for justice and peace in the larger society = Social Ministry work and possible ties to Phase II plans, Lay participation in the mission of the church = Goal 2, etc. These are the easy ones to identify. What is needed is a more detailed and extensive comparison.
- The Chair will gather a group of people to review in detail each document and then create a new merged document.

### **Comments from the Msgr.:**

Music Ministry: our new music minister has been hired and will start on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Youth Ministry: the selection committee is working and currently we need more applicants. They are working through this and keeping their eyes open to consider all alternatives.

Campus Ministry: We actually have more liturgical and spiritual ministry activities than before. A visiting priest has agreed to be here every weekend of the school year; there is a Saturday morning Mass and confessions along with daily Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Communion Prayer Service: this is going well with a small and dedicated group of attendees. Thursday and Friday service will start on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Msgr. – continued**

Staff: The staff is in “good health” and the transition with the new Music Minister should be positive. The group has a good attitude and they are pulling together well

Rectory: design for a large house is underway. It will have 4 suites for 4 priests (based on having a Pastor, Parochial Vicar, Campus Minister and a retired priest) plus 2 guest rooms to allow for visiting priests.

In response to questions:

- 1) In response to a question about one Deacon moving away, Msgr. stated that this was not a surprise as he knew that the Deacon was wanting to move closer to family. He complimented our remaining Deacon for all his work and that he is doing great. If the new Bishop has another 4-year program Msgr. is hoping men will want to sign up. One possibility is to have a Deacon as a spiritual advisor.
- 2) The new music minister would be the interface for the funeral ministry and the job description also calls for the music minister to be the interface for wedding preparation as well.
- 3) It was noted that the temperature at the 7:15am Mass seems to have stabilized and fixed. The HVAC is a highly complex and computer driven system.
- 4) In response to a question about the tabernacle: with the doors closed, and even though it is made of glass and transparent, one should simply keep walking i.e., bowing or genuflecting is not necessary. Technically it is a wall. One should genuflect if you enter the chapel or if the doors are open. Also, one can genuflect or bow at any time if that is what one wants to do.

**Next Meeting:**

**The next meeting of the PC will be Wednesday July 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.**

We closed with a prayer from Tess.