

St. Bede Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2005

Present: Fr. Abe, Greg Ballentine, Francis Capone, Toni Collingwood, Ginger DiLoreto, Charles Leahey, Gloria Flinn-Linderman, John McCormack, Betty Morris, Miriam Saguto, Don Seger, William Theroux, Tess Thome, Jeannie Trainum

Absent: Rosanne Black, Dave Clemens, Monica Rettig, Tina Straight

Prior to the meeting all who had not completed an Adult Information Form were asked to do so and to return the completed document to Don.

Don called the meeting to order at 7 pm and Tess led the opening prayer. The minutes from the June meeting were approved. Don welcomed Ginger and Gloria to the meeting.

A PC Goal is to hear from each of the major ministries each year in order to better understand their unique needs and how the PC may be able to assist them. Don introduced Gloria Flinn-Linderman, Minister of Religious Education for Christian Formation.

Christian Formation: Gloria began with a review of her responsibilities by distributing an outline of the Christian Formation (CF) programs, which are divided into two basic categories: Adult Faith Formation and Children's Faith Formation. The critical development starts with adult formation and from there to the younger peoples programs. Gloria walked the group through each of the programs discussing who and how many people are involved, goals of each group, what has changed to better address needs, timing of meetings, etc. In response to questions and commenting about new aspects of specific programs Gloria stated:

- 1) Lenten Retreats will be offered throughout the Lenten period on Tuesdays versus doing a one time Monday – Wednesday retreat. In this way it is hoped that more people will be able to participate.
- 2) The plan is to renew the Small Faith program
- 3) In addition to a Women's Retreat a Men's Retreat is planned. With the success of the Couple's Retreat another one of these is planned
- 4) Bede Lectures are scheduled for every other month: Fr. Abe on for August 8th.
- 5) The call for more Catechists, at recent Sunday Masses, was very successful and all positions have been filled. One very positive result was that 6 high school students signed up and will be Catechists.
- 6) A critical need for the School of Religion is space. Every classroom is being fully utilized. There is also the need for multi-purpose space on Sunday mornings in order to work with parents. Fr. Abe and Gloria also commented that it is wonderful that we have been able to keep the K-12 programs together on the same day. It is good for the children to see such a gathering of Catholic kids.

- 7) Per direction from the Bishop the age for confirmation will remain as it is: 11th grade. Fr. Abe offered that Canon Law allows that a child who is capable and able (e.g. children in CCD or Catholic home schooled) can be confirmed earlier than age 16. The age for confirmation is at the discretion of the local Bishop and across the US it ranges from age 7 to 17.
- 8) As a part of developing adult education ecumenically one goal is to have the Bede Lecture series announcements printed in the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church (our Covenant church) bulletin. This is part of an effort to have more adult-to-adult education.
- 9) The possibility of a children's liturgy during mass is unknown at this time.

Committee Reports:

Liturgy Committee: Betty distributed minutes from the June LC session and she pointed out several items:

- 1) Transparent trays for holding cups have been well received and the fact that they seemingly disappear when on the altar is good. The new process of filling the cups prior to mass is working well. Fr. Abe added that the new sacramental wine is fortified (18%) and it therefore lessens the possibility for the transfer of germs. A note will be placed in the newsletter about this new wine and the reason for the change. If a serious flu season were to occur a pastoral decision could be made to suspend the use of the cup. He also stated that the priest or deacon can do intinction for themselves or others but the general populace cannot.
- 2) Betty reminded everyone that Oct. 15th would be the date for the annual ministers gathering with Fr. Abe as the speaker.
- 3) August 15th is not a day of obligation but there will be a 9 am and noon mass.

Social Ministry: no report.

Old Business:

Neighborhood Roundtable critique:

- 1) Toni asked that she be given more time to plan for the next such session (i.e., like the June 05 meeting) so that she can notify people and therefore get a better turnout.
- 2) A date of October 19th was chosen for the next Neighborhood Roundtable meeting and it will include the regular PC meeting as well.
- 3) All agreed that the first such program was a good start and that with time and feedback to the parish on the sessions (newsletter, bulletin, etc) we will develop the parish wide dialogue that we desire.

Neighborhood Ministry Report: Toni continues to contact existing neighborhood representatives to support their efforts and to contact individuals in new areas for the creation of new neighborhood ministries.

Stewardship/Pipe Organ Update: Miriam reported:

- 1) That we now have @ \$700K in the pipe organ fund and we are @ \$150K short of the goal of \$850K. In August there will be a sale of cookbooks and a CD recording as a part of the fund raising program. Otherwise, July and August will be a respite time for the campaign and the effort will renew in the fall.
- 2) There will be an organ recital on Sept. 30th (A Friday evening) with the organist from the National Cathedral as the guest musician. It was suggested that this be a no cost/no request for funds event.
- 3) The “Irish Tenor” concert is selling out quickly. The money raised from this program does not go to the organ fund but goes to the benefit of St. Bede Parish. Don and Butch Snyder have done a wonderful job with this effort.
- 4) The “Processional Organ” components will arrive and be installed next week. Therefore, daily mass will be moved to the CCM chapel on Richmond Rd.
- 5) At the end of October there will be targeted mailings about end of year gifts.
- 6) **Miriam asked for a volunteer from the PC to assist her and Rosemarie with the “Newcomers Sessions” held quarterly in the commons. The role is to contact the ministries to ensure that they have representatives available and to get some cookies for refreshments. Tess and Miriam also asked for a volunteer to take over the writing of a PC message in the newsletter.**

Ecumenical meeting at St. Joan of Arc: Tess was able to attend one of the two sessions and reported that it was very good. Approximately 40 people were in attendance. The presentation concentrated on Pope John Paul II’s call to ecumenical activities. The LARC conference is coming up in November and will be in Lexington. **We need to have more people involved and to get a PC member to attend.** Tess will get information on this conference to the PC and also write an article for the newsletter.

Suggestion Box: Don, reporting for Monica, stated that @ 25 suggestions were submitted last month and they will be distributed to the appropriate people. One item came in asking that we consider having coffee and donuts after one of the Sunday masses. A new suggestion box has been made and will be put out this week.

New Business:

Combined Staff/FC/PC meeting: Don reminded all to keep in mind that we were not able to have this retreat in May and that one should be rescheduled.

Christian Formation: Don asked Fr. Abe to recommend a replacement for Jay Colley whose term as CF liaison to the PC recently expired.

Other Business:

Informational 'Walk-Around': Don and Monica attended, as PC representatives, a tour of the St. Bede property with the FC and the Monthly Maintenance ministry. A prioritized list of "to dos" concerning the property has been developed including issues such as: drainage, storm repair, dam repair, environmental concerns, silt run-off, a sidewalk on Ironbound Rd., the side parking lot, etc. Discussion followed:

- 1) The list of "to dos" is with the FC for ranking and a lot of costs are involved. The obvious and critical items will need to be done (e.g., spillways on the dam, silt drainage on the side of the church) while also managing the \$3.8M of debt.
- 2) Fr. Abe reminded and reinforced the fact that until the \$3.8M is paid down we cannot get to phase-II.
- 3) Miriam proposed a "cash and carry" approach for future development i.e., raise and collect the money for a particular project and then build (build based upon what money can be raised) versus so much debt.

Comments from Fr. Abe:

Fr. Abe reviewed what happened at church that afternoon at 4:30 pm when, due to very high heat development at the top of the sky light in the center of the commons, a sensor turned on the fire-sprinklers. (Apparently the sensor that was originally installed was a 135-degree type when what was needed was one at a higher heat range e.g. 289 degrees). The result was that the commons was watered for 20 minutes. Since the floors are cement there was only some damage to the lower walls with the furniture and rugs surviving OK. A new higher degree sensor was installed.

The rectory is moving to its new location (4524 The Foxes) tomorrow. It is a very nice residence (3700 square feet) that is being repainted, cleaned, etc. as necessary and it will house, Fr. O'Brien, Fr. Malabad, Fr. Abe and visiting priests as needed.

Jeannie Trainum offered the closing prayer.

There will NOT be a PC meeting in August. The next meeting will be September 28th in the church with Tina and Bill offering the prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Ballentine
Secretary