

St. Bede Pastoral Council
Synopsis of meeting on October 27, 2004

Present: Greg Ballentine, Rosanne Black, Monsignor Carr, Jay Colley, Toni Collingwood, Larry Frouheisor, Michelle Kelley, Charles Leahey, Ed Lull, John McCormack, Betty Morris, Celeste Prezioso, Monica Rettig, Miriam Saguto, Don Seger, Tess Thome, Dick Woestman, Marianne Wrightson

Absent: Dave Clemens, Mike Powers, William Theroux

Don Seger opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and Greg Ballentine offered the prayer.

Don opened the meeting by welcoming our guests: Michelle Kelley, Ed Lull and Larry Frouheisor.

Michelle commented that the first two months leading the Youth Ministry have been wonderful.

The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Committee Reports

Liturgy Committee: the September Liturgy Committee meeting minutes were distributed. On Nov. 13th there will be a Day of Reflection for communion ministers, lectors, music ministers, adult acolytes, ushers and greeters. A schedule for the Holydays was also distributed.

Social Ministry: Bob Quirin is acting as temporary head of the Social Ministry. A search committee has been formed to find a new leader. Several individuals have applied and some have advanced degrees. A meeting is scheduled for Friday in order to establish interview times. It is possible that a new head of the Social Ministry program will be announced by December. Approximately 10 volunteers have left the group but the program is still functioning well.

Finance Council Presentation/Discussion

Larry Frouheisor came to address the PC in regard to questions arising at the last PC meeting and to receive input from the PC.

- The discussion started by reviewing that by Diocesan Guidelines the FC's role is to maintain proper financial records and to assist the Pastor to balance the Parish budget per the goals/priorities set by the PC.

- Absent from the budget development process is stronger PC input and feedback. How can this process be facilitated and especially at budget times? When it comes to the actual expenditures, how can we tie them to a specific mission and goal, i.e., expenditures meet goals? With a \$1.9M budget and @ a \$60K deficit, the goal is to affect the funding based on what the PC is trying to accomplish. Based on these points, Larry asked the PC members to raise any funding issues they have and to comment on how to do a better job.
 - When do we (PC) approach the FC? The budget process starts in March with the accumulation of ideas and the basic question as to whether there are funds available for those ideas. If funds are not available the program(s) have to be worked into the budget process. The resulting new budget begins on July 1st.
 - Could a representative from each council attend each other's meetings and report back to their respective organizations? It would be more feasible for the FC to attend the PC sessions. Also, a quarterly report to the PC may be more appropriate due to the dynamic nature of the FC meetings and that the PC could receive financial data prior to it being published in the church newsletter. All are welcome to attend the FC sessions and that the FC should, per church rules, be separate from the PC. The PC role is to shape the vision of the church and the FC to finance that vision. It was concluded that a subcommittee or a meeting between the PC and FC could be held in March where the PC priorities for the next fiscal year would be reviewed. Larry will ask the FC about a liaison to attend the PC sessions.
 - An example of the above process would be if the youth ministry was to go to a no fee approach then the PC would present this to the FC for approval in the budget? Yes, that is the process.
 - Several comments were made that the overwhelming focus over the past many years has been the Core Committee and the new church. That was the vision to be accomplished and therefore the budget focus as well. The next phase of what is needed at the new site and linking those physical needs to ministry needs is beginning.
 - The PC members concluded the discussion with the comment that we need to begin to identify our objectives and get our goals out earlier.

Monsignor's Comments:

- Msgr. once again challenged us to find a way to go into the neighborhoods with a goal of listening to the parish. Over the last 8 years so much time was dedicated to the new site and now it is time to minister to the people. He would be pleased to join in on these meetings. Two PC members will lead this effort within the PC.

- A small example of our contact with the parish community would be to, once again, put the suggestion box out and to regularly and consistently respond to those who use this method of communication. Msgr. has received requests for this to be done. Anything we do to listen helps the parish. A PC member offered to monitor this program.
- We ought to have 5-year plans that are constantly updated.
- The new rectory is 98% designed. The plans have been taken to JCC for approval as a domestic location. Approval of this plan is behind some other major JCC projects e.g., New Town, Busch Gardens, etc. The builder hopes that the plans will be approved by the first of the year. We have the old rectory until September of 2005.
- The priests of the Diocese attended a meeting with the new Bishop. The Secretary for the US Bishops for liturgy and a Professor of Liturgy at Catholic University presented. In regard to questions of liturgy the clear message from the Bishop is to “do what you do”. The new Bishop is impressed by the reverence of the laity in the Diocese of Richmond and he wants us to continue this reverence.
- To a question/comment on the Prayers of the Faithful, Msgr. commented that a prayer for life from conception to natural death was well taken. Every week there is pressure to cover many issues and he tries to cover this multitude of possibilities over the course of a month.
- In response to comments on talking in the church (which can disturb those in prayer and contemplation), use of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel as a cry room, that the Baptistry (when it comes to talking) is still in the church, Msgr. will use the Advent season as a time to offer guidelines to the community on what is right and expected.

Old Business:

“We’ve Come This Far by Faith”: Ed Lull reviewed that after the recent meeting with the Bishop the task of determining the relevance of the issues outlined in the previously published “We’ve Come This Far by Faith” document has been given to the parish. Ed developed a plan along with a questionnaire to meet this goal and reviewed it with a group of PC members. The result was that 12 people were selected (people in a position to know the parish and to a degree the Diocese) to complete the questionnaire. (Greg Allen, Dick Woestman, Barbara Buehrle, Jack Carey, Gloria Flinn-Linderman, Joe Guion, Betty Morris, Eliza Eversole, Jean Puckett, Phil Smead, Jack Sherry, Marianne Wrightson) The results of this will be compiled, reviewed with Msgr. and sent to the Bishop by 12/01/04. A second task, to assess how well the parish is doing in meeting the needs of the parish, will commence after Christmas. It was agreed that this second program would link well with our efforts to gain input from the parish at the neighborhood meetings.

Care Ministry/Faith In Action: The Faith In Action organization was contacted again and they are anxious to work with us. In response to points raised at the last PC meeting our PC member stated:

- The FIA group does not have any political ties
- FIA is a national organization and it was started by Robert Johnson of J & J
- Mr. Frank Bagley, a board member and our liaison, offered to speak to the PC and/or at our masses to review FIA and to do training.
- As to training there are two points to consider: 1) FIA will charge \$24.00 per person to cover the cost of processing several forms e.g., driving record check, and 2) there is some reporting required if one volunteers e.g., hours of service. Beyond the basic training (@2.5 hours) FIA also offers enhancement training.
- If some volunteers want to just do so for other St. Bede parishioners versus anyone in the general community, this can be done.
- Our decision now is if we want to join FIA or develop a similar capability on our own.

Several questions/comments were raised:

- Is there a ministry similar to this already in St. Bede? No, while the functions cross some ministries i.e., Stephen Ministry, JOY, FISH, etc. this is a companionship effort.
- This is a good idea, so how would we operate this program e.g., who is responsible, and how will it function? If we choose to join with FIA we would come under FIA and use a referral process. Therefore we will not need another committee. We would certainly contact the former Stephen Ministers as a potential source of volunteers.

The conclusion was that we would join with FIA. We will continue to advertise for clients and volunteers. In doing so it will be made clear that this is a caregiver approach and therefore different from the Stephen Ministry effort. A review session will be arranged for those interested in volunteering.

Parish Registry Report: PC representatives met with PTA International in regard to the process of implementing this program:

- In 2005 the program will start in the April/May time period
- It will last 20 days (use 2 cameras)
- Everyone would receive a free 8X10
- Plenty of pages for candid photos in the final book
- The company is very flexible as to when the photos are done
- PTA will do all of the calling
- All will be done in the church

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Neighborhood Ministry: The Powhattan Secondary program has been launched and is underway. This program can also support the PC program being developed to gain feedback from the neighborhoods.

LARC Conference: The conference (Nov. 12-13) is to be held in Williamsburg and in part at the St. Bede center. The other locations will be Bruton Parish and St. Stephens. Two PC members will be acting as facilitators. There are green fliers on the program in the commons and announcements in the bulletin. The theme for the conference: GOD'S WORD – OUR PROBLEMS, The bearing of Scripture on Moral Decision Making. They are expecting 200-250 people from different churches. Another component of the program is that those coming from out-of-town can be paired with host families for one night. There is also a need for 4-6 people on Friday to help do set up. Anyone interested should contact Mary Ellen Pitard.

Financial Campaign: The upcoming deconstruction and construction for the organ would be announced in the November newsletter. Over the next 1-2 weeks:

- homilies at all masses will include information on this program
- brochures for the pipe organ are going to press now and will be available in early November
- a display panel with pictures will be in the Commons in November (this will also give us a way to display future presentations/information as well).
- A co-chair of the capital campaign has agreed to be a team leader and has recruited @ 12 members to assist
- PC/FC members will be asked to assist with phone calls

New Business:

Pastoral Council Elections: It is time for the PC election process to commence. Announcements will be placed in the bulletin asking for individuals to come forward to run. Individuals will have until Nov. 30th to make a decision so that their bios and pictures can be published. Ballots will be available for the January newsletter with elections the second Sunday in January (January 9th). A group of PC members will work to put the bio pages together.

Boy Scout Troop: this point was deferred due to the length of the meeting and the late hour.

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Other Business:

Families with children ministry: It was announced that this ministry is flourishing with a total of @ 25 families (75 children) now involved. They have divided into 5 groups and they have activities planned up to and during the Grand Illumination. The idea of a parish school was also raised but it is not a feasible consideration at this time.

Elizabeth Ministry: A PC member related that the members of this ministry were pleased to hear that they had a PC representative assigned to them.

Newcomers: Everyone was reminded that there is a newcomer's reception after the 11 am mass on Nov. 7th.

We closed with a prayer from Betty Morris.

The next PC meeting is November 17th (moved back a week due to the Thanksgiving Holiday) at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

PC Secretary