

St. Barbara Pastoral Council Monthly Meeting

MINUTES

OCTOBER 11, 2009

7:00 P.M.

ST. BARBARA'S ROOM

MEETING CALLED BY	Charter
TYPE OF MEETING	Recurring Monthly
FACILITATOR	Roy Draper
NOTE TAKER	Paul Hunton
TIMEKEEPER	N/A
ATTENDEES	Present: Fr. Ken, Roy Draper, Carla Goetz , Brad Polk, Rita Haldeman, David Yant, Bob Weir, Maxine Weir, Paul Hunton; Cara Biskup, Keith Biskup, Fr. Jimmie Guests: Ken Meyer, Kathy Meyer, Dawn Borger Absent: Joe Cepec, Dave Kent, Barb DeFelice

Agenda topics

1. **CALL TO ORDER/BLESSING (10 MINUTES)** **FATHER KEN**

Fr. Ken led the Pastoral Council in an opening prayer.

2. **MEETING MINUTES REVIEW (5 MINUTES)** **KEITH BISKUP**

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved 	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

3. **2011 PASTORAL NOMINATION PROCESS (30 MINUTES)** **COUNCIL**

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joe Cepec, Cara and Keith Biskup, and Bob Weir will be retiring from council this year. It was agreed that the nomination process from last year was very successful. Maxine proposed a schedule for the nomination process. It was as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomination announcements: 10/2-3 Bulletin: 10/9-17, 10/16-17, 10/23-24 Talks before Mass will occur on 10/23-24. Last day to submit nominations 11/1 Parish office e-mails Maxine/Bob name and contact info by 11/3 Bring list to Pastoral Council Meeting on 11/8. Notify nominees throughout November 12/4 Feast of St. Barbara – Names pulled. Contact nominees not in attendance to notify if selected or thank them if not. 12/13 Mtg & introduce new members & discuss retreat agenda. It was agreed that those who were nominated last year but were not selected will be asked if they are still interested. Cara volunteered to write up the speech to be presented during Masses as presented above. Volunteers to speak: Paul (Sunday at 6:00, Cara (Sunday 8:00, 10:30), Roy (Saturday at 5:30) Change to the nomination process: identify the nominees prior to the selection process. Selection process occurs after communion. Nominees selected and present would be recognized. Retiring members would be recognized.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The outline for the January retreat was discussed. It will be structured much like last year. The dates for the retreat are the 14th/15th. The first night will be at St. Barbara with the second day at St. Emma's. The schedule for Friday night will be the same as last year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roy to do the wings ▪ Paul to bring a dessert ▪ Dave Yant, all other members: dessert/hors d'oeuvres ▪ Wine, Pop, Beer: Keith Biskup, Brad Polk ▪ Church to provide all paper products St. Emma's Monastery on Saturday. Major items to be covered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mass ▪ Breakfast ▪ Tour of the Monastery ▪ Current objectives. Current council members felt that it would be best to continue with current goals/objectives, mission statements ▪ Discussion of last year Council accomplishments ▪ Reserved time for Fr. Ken. ▪ Religious topical discussion (Mother Mary Ann) <p>Maxine Weir will provide a more detailed breakdown of the proposed retreat agenda fleshing out the ideas above. It is desired for church staff members attend.</p>	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Determine what staff members will discuss when they attend.	Fr. Ken, Staff	Next Meeting
Retrieve talking points for calls made to nominees last year	Cara Biskup	Next Meeting

4. **YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM** **COUNCIL**

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action from the last meeting was to identify potential candidates for the young adult program (19-39). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Names proposed by council members were discussed o A phone call to formally contact those identified above will be made to invite them. 	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Develop an introductory letter to invite potential members to participate in this ministry. Develop a script/talking points for phone conversations with potential participants for the young adult program. The first contacts should only be to invite them to an information meeting.	Cara Biskup	Next Meeting

5. **MISC** **COUNCIL**

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two softball teams in the Parish. The softball teams will be discussed in the "Share the Spirit. • Dawn provided an update on the greeter ministry. Dawn contacted approximately 16 people, all of whom said they would participate. This ministry will start up on the 2nd week of November. She will be developing the schedule for this ministry. There will be 4 people per Mass each weekend. The Knights will continue to support the greeter function on the first Sunday of the month. This closes the recurring action item on this topic. Pastoral Council members will continue to contribute as opportunities allow. • Knights of Columbus were recognized as being particularly enthusiastic, visible and helpful in the Church. The ministry support on 10/10/10 was particularly 	
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	<p>noteworthy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Ellen Stilwell provided a summary of the home visitation which occurred in Country Farm Estates. The summary is attached to the meeting minutes. • For the Feast of Christ the King, it was requested that the council take a ½ hr slot from noon to 6 pm for adoration. The Council will support from 12:00 to 12:30. • Fr. Ken requested that Pastoral Council consider attending a meeting concerning raising awareness of parishioners on how to make planned gifts to the parish through estate planning. The meeting is on November 4th at the Bishop Connare Center. Available times are 2:00-3:30pm and from 7:00-8:30. 	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

6. **ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER/BLESSING (10 MINUTES)** **FATHER KEN/ALL**

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING IS 7:00 p.m. MONDAY, November 8th, St. Barbara’s Room.

Open Actions (Summary)

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Determine what staff members will discuss when they attend the Pastoral Council Retreat in January.	Fr. Ken, Staff	Next Meeting
Retrieve talking points for calls made to nominees last year	Cara Biskup	Next Meeting
Develop an introductory letter to invite potential members to participate in the young adult ministry. Develop a script/talking points for phone conversations with potential participants for the young adult program. The first contacts should only be to invite them to an information meeting.	Cara Biskup	Next Meeting
Bring 2 to 5 names of young adults as potential members in the young adult ministry.	All	Next meeting

Country Farm Estates Home Visitation

Questionnaire Responses 2010

1. Name areas that St. Barbara Parish should be addressing (e.g. youth groups, social events, justice outreach, etc.):

- In my opinion, the church should focus more on charity work, not necessarily involving money, but people's time. Focus should be made in teaching others and organizing groups on a regular basis to volunteer at schools, shelters, food banks, senior homes, hospitals, etc.
- I recommend that the parish maximize focus on forward youth groups. This area is important.
- Thinks youth group is great. Has 2 teenagers involved
- CCD. Three hours seems too long for kids to sit through and stay interested. Weekday CCD would be much better.
- With two elementary age children, I would love to involve them in volunteer activities for youth

2. Some ways that St. Barbara Parish could help people deepen their faith are (e.g. better liturgical music, better homilies, prayer group, Adult Faith Formation, etc.):

- Again, I think the best way to deepen faith is to practice what you preach. Do as Jesus did instead of just talking about it. Anyone can sit in a church and call themselves a Christian. One of the greatest feelings is knowing I did something to make a positive difference in someone's life!
- Continue to keep homilies relevant and to the point. In the past, homilies were frequently repetitive and lengthy, causing parishioners to lose interest.
- Relate homily to life more. Give parishioner something to work on for the upcoming week, ie commitments, jealousy, etc.
- Being able to bring kids to Church without feeling like your torturing them...Our kids just don't do well sitting still during Church
- Although I attended Catholic school for 12 years, I am sorely in need of a refresher course. Maybe as simple as a weekly bulletin article, or maybe use 30 minutes prior to Mass to address topics of faith and/or meditation. Unfortunately with today's busy lifestyles, classes and groups might be hard to fit in schedule.
- More in depth Bible Studies to enhance our religious education
- Homilies are excellent

3. If you were the pastor and could do anything what would it be.....

- Fr. Ken, I think that you are a modern open-minded priest who is doing an exceptionally wonderful job. I think that coming into the neighborhoods on a personal basis is a great idea & hopefully it will help the church's attendance & participation. I'm a strong believer in teaching empathy. It is so easy to judge or overlook others unless we sincerely try to understand what they're feeling, and I think the best way is to become physically involved, a/k/a not just write a check! There are so many local organizations who could use the parishioners help! I realize this volunteer work is easier said than done (so much easier to be a check-writing Catholic!), but I think it's esp. important to teach this to our youth. Maybe if the Catholic Church, in general, (not just St. Barb's) acted more as Jesus did, I would love coming to church the way I used to." "Love your neighbor as yourself." "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." Sincerely.....

P.S. I usually have lots of clothes that the kids have outgrown. Does the church work with any shelters that I could donate these to? Thanks.

- Make Mass more appealing to the younger generation
- Know every parishioner by name.

- Encourage men to be involved
- For a parish that is our size, additional deacons, or even priests, would be very helpful. Encourage a better dress code at Masses. Establish a small children/parents room
- Bring back the 9:00 AM Sunday Mass, this would benefit the families who have children and are forced to 10:30

4. **Other comments to improve the parish.....**

- Change CCD classes to 2 hours/weekday night/week instead of Saturdays. Start in September to May if necessary to fulfill time requirements/curriculum requirements.
- PA system and acoustical room treatment are inadequate. It is very difficult to understand the priest unless seated very close to him
- I would try to continue the fine traditional programs that St. Barbara's has established. This is a fine parish.
- I think other churches throughout the area are able to reach to people better with the social halls, activity centers, gymnasiums, etc. that are available for the people to use.
- General Comment: We are very impressed with Fr. Ken's sermons and the fact that he thanks everyone for attending Mass
- We feel that there appears to be a lot of staff on the payroll
- The family mentioned the church has money needs don't justify items such as coffee mugs, pasta dinner, etc

Other comments made to visitors (no questionnaire returned):

- One person would like to hear more about abortion from the pulpit.
- Parish needs activities for age 60+ people wanting to meet others
- Can't understand why we still owed 2 million on the building renovation after the first Capital Campaign
- For the recent capital campaign, didn't think we should have paid 7 1/2 % to a PR firm
- One person gets annoyed with those who only come on Christmas and Easter
- Suggested that Fr. stress the fact the these visits do not include a plea for money
- one resulted in an EMC taking Communion to a lady who is recuperating
- One visit---couple is disenchanted with Church since Vatican II changes....this one was referred
- Three families said they wish Formation sessions were held at a different time. They are experiencing conflict with the kids' activities
- One gentleman said that when he was a kid Mass lasted 45 minutes. He doesn't like the 1 hour and 15 min Masses, especially on Steeler game days when he thinks the priests keep him there longer on purpose.
- One family goes to Mass more often in the fall/winter but not summer. They have a camp. Our Mass times are not convenient for young children. 10:30 too crowded; 8:00 too early
- One family---noted she believes Catholics stopped going to Mass during Bush administration. "You can't mix politics with religion."
- One family---does not attend Mass regularly; her fault, not Church's' just can't get it all together on any given weekend. Kids attend CCD; likes Fr. Ken
- One family---Got away from regular Mass attendance once kids left home; didn't care for former pastor; upset about priest/child scandal
- Church is always asking for money. I go to 8 am Mass now but I'm thinking of looking at another church (Cornerstone)
- The only recommendation I have (he) is no longer at St. Barbara's

- I would like to see more youth group events, activities, promotion, etc.
- We tend to get away from Mass during the summer
- We got away from Mass since the death of my mother and my father is now attending Cornerstone

Country Farms Home Visitation Experience

Home visits occurred August 15 – September 5, 2010

All registered parishioners in Country Farms were contacted which was a total of 117.

Some people could not be reached by phone, nor were they found at home when a visitor stopped. In most cases, the visitor left a note along with booklet, coffee mug, dinner invitation.

A total of 88 (75%) visits occurred ranging from 10 minutes to one hour.

Of the 117 families, 21 signed up for the dinner. (43 adults, 13 children). Two families did not show up (4 adults). [There were additional people---Home visitation Team, Bros in Priase, Committee reps, some staff members and Knights]

The dinner was viewed to be a great success. Knights of Columbus did an outstanding job with cooking, serving, cleaning up.

One lady commented on how much she appreciated the invitation. She comes to Mass, but is not involved in the parish beyond that. She hoped to meet some fellow Catholics from her neighborhood.

Two couples signed up for Marriage Prep Sponsor Couples

One young person signed up to be an altar server

In general, the experience was very positive.

The concensus of the group is that the Home Visitation Project should be continued. The next neighborhood will be Oak Farm Estates, 'St. Barbara Acres' and Blackthorne.

We will be recruiting visitors in October/November and plan to have Visitor Training and begin in early January.

Cost of materials taken to homes: Approx. \$3/family (incl. booklet, mug, postage)
Cost of Pasta Dinner: Approx. \$250 - 300

Submitted By: Mary Ellen Stilwell