ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
Pastor's Advisory Council

Minutes of the Meeting of January 13, 2010

The PAC meeting of January 13, 2010, was called to order by the Chair, Tom Kane, at 7:35 p.m.

Msgr. Pennington began the meeting with a prayer. A reading from the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 1, verses 29-39, was followed by the group's shared reflection on the reading.

Msgr. Pennington commented on the following:

- Tony Cranford, the long-time bookkeeper of St. John's, has resigned due to health problems. The CPA firm which has been working temporarily will continue doing this work with staff coming in on Monday and Wednesday of each week. An email address for them has been established and published on the front page of the Bulletin.
- The Archdiocese is asking for a collection to assist the earthquake victims in Haiti. It is a poor country at the best of times and is now devastated by the quake.
- There will be an adult rally in connection with the annual March for Life in the District. A Mass will be held at St. John's prior to the rally, with participants using the Metro to get to the Mall following Mass.
- On the pavilion being considered for the Historic Church, there is no change in status, with the question of where on the property it will be built still being open.
- Ministry Orientations will take place on the next two Saturdays, and there is a need for volunteers from the PAC to assist in directing people to the various rooms on those days.

Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated in advance to PAC members, and the Chair asked for discussion and approval. No changes were suggested at the meeting. Motion for approval was made by Jim Polk and seconded by John Capobianco. All voted "aye" and the minutes were approved.

Jim Polk reported on the Pastoral Plan Update and reminded the members that the PAC is the agency that will track this program. The pound sign on various parts of the program indicates what has been done. Cathy Ellis is putting together a plan version which has separate lines for each goal, space for status and changes, and a to-be-assigned responsible person for tracking each item. This will be monitored monthly.

Carla Haywood reported on the Spirituality agenda item. The Liturgy Committee is working well. They had a meeting in January on the Eucharistic Ministry. She reported a need for additional training for new people who are coming into this Ministry, and stressed the need for both new and established participants to keep their commitments and show up on the days for which they have signed up. An attempt will be made to report regularly to the parish by way of the Bulletin on the activities of this Committee. "Why We Serve" will be the theme. Their next meeting will focus on an evaluation of the music. That meeting will be held on February 4

at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory conference room. All meetings of the Liturgy Committee are open to all parishioners.

Msgr. Pennington commented on the "ministry of the community at Mass" – ways we approach altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, etc. They are considering having these people sit with their families prior to the beginning of the Mass and then rise and go to their specific service place, rather than being a part of the procession from the back of the Church. Carla responded that they are working on a "Ministry of Assembly" which would encompass this, letting parishioners know how they can have a more active participation in the Liturgy.

Sister Roberta discussed programs for Lent, including the "Rice and Tea" evenings for five weeks. She will be talking to various groups to try to get speakers for these evenings, and organizations such as the Boy Scouts, CYO, etc., will be contacted re assisting with the service at each event. She thinks that we probably will not be able to staff a Seder this year. She discussed offering participants in the last rice and tea evening the opportunity to follow that immediately with a visit to the Chapel for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. She reported that in response to the Archdiocese's push for the "Light is On" theme again, there will be confessions on each Wednesday evening in Lent from 6:30 to 8:00, with no formal Penance Service being held. The opportunity for Adoration following confession would be promoted. A focus of Lent will be the Liturgy of the Word – What is it doing for us? How is it changing our life? For security during these Wednesday sessions, there is a need for someone to be present in the Church in addition to the priests. PAC members were asked to volunteer for this as they have in the past. A sign-up list will be available at the next PAC meeting in February.

Under the Community Building section of the agenda, Jim Polk discussed the Time and Talent Orientation Programs on January 16th and 23rd, each beginning with Mass at 9:00 a.m., followed by a brief talk and blessing by Msgr. Pennington and then by visits with the various Ministry heads in rooms at the school and the Church. He reported that a letter and a card were sent out to people who had responded with an interest in serving, and this data is being compiled. On each of the mornings, Mary Brogan will explain the process to those assembled and then people will go to the various rooms which should be clearly marked. The program should be concluded by Noon each day. There will be a formal follow-up afterwards to keep this process moving along. Mary Petrizzo asked about the need at this time for volunteers to assist, and Tom Kane indicated that he would send an email to PAC members stating what is needed.

Regarding the 60th anniversary of the school, Tom Kane reported on an e-mail he had received from Marie James which stated that the status on this has not changed much since the last PAC meeting. They have a planning meeting scheduled for February and are still looking for input from the parish based on notices in the Bulletin, and they still need volunteers for the Planning Committee. PAC members are encouraged to join. The main theme of the program will be something like "Excellence in Academics Rooted in Faith/Inspiring Hearts and Minds." There will be a kick-off celebration in late May which could be held in conjunction with either the Health Challenge morning, or the parish picnic. In June, July and August, there will be an Alumni Participation and Fundraising Drive, where they will try to contact alumni and honor

their successes, building on this year's Catholic School Week theme, "Dividends for Life." In September, there will be an anniversary Mass and celebration, which will include not only the school's 60th anniversary but also Sr. Kathleen's 30th anniversary as Principal. The Archbishop will be invited to say the Mass. This should be a "good news" story for the Archdiocese. Former teachers, students and priests will be invited. Other events for fall of 2010 are also being planned. Msgr. Pennington commented that the school's endowment is now back up to almost the $1,000,000 level. Dan Redmond distributed some brochures on the endowment.

Tom Kane reported on the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge based on an e-mail from Marie James. The planning group will hold a meeting in January on the 26th or the 29th. The format will be basically the same as last year with some improvements being made in place determinations and end-of-race timing. Additional staffing is needed on this. We need to coordinate with the school on the physical challenge part, the piece that has a grant potential, in order to get the school age kids to participate in it and to report on their activities. A weekly "fun-run" could be established so that people can get together and begin to work up to the race. A potential sponsor is considering organizing this for us. A couple of sponsors have committed but the level of commitment has not been established. The planning group will appreciate having new input as well as feedback/lessons learned from the previous event. The event is scheduled this year for May 22nd.

The Parish Picnic was rained out last year, but there is optimism for success this year. We need to recruit a Chairperson for this year's Picnic. A date must be established and notified to the parishioners well in advance by way of a Bulletin notice which will also ask for volunteers for the Picnic Planning Committee.

In the absence of Rick Maurano, Msgr. Pennington commented on Finances. He said that the parish financial situation is stable, all bills have been paid, there is some money in the bank, and the Bannon program has been helpful. Based on the data it appears that we will have a 15% increase this year in the offertory collection. A report on the second quarter will be sent out to the parish.

The PAC election was next on the agenda. It was noted that the last meeting of this PAC will be on May 13. Jim Polk suggested that the last week of March should be the deadline for getting information out in the Bulletin on this, and that the nomination process should be completed by the 10th or 11th of April so that there would be time to talk to people about serving. Volunteers are needed to work on this.

Not present at the meeting were Denise Culkin, Rick Maurano, Lynn Muldoon, and Willie White.

There being no further business, Msgr. Pennington led the group in the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra J. Liebel