ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
Pastor's Advisory Council

Minutes of the Meeting of February 18, 2010

The PAC meeting of February 18, 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 Isaiah, Chapter 58, verses 1-9, was followed by the group's shared reflection on the reading.

Msgr. Pennington commented on the following:

- There was nothing new to report on the proposed pavilion for the grounds of the Historic Church. Spring may bring new developments and discussion.
- Some surprise donations were received by the Parish, among which were funds for a carpet for the rectory and free work on the hinges of the doors of the Historic Church.
- First confessions were held for 38 children from the school, and there will be 37 children confirmed on March 8. The Archbishop is scheduled to be at that service.
- Advice was asked from PAC members on painting the dark paneling in the Chapel to brighten it up. This was approved and since all Masses during Lent will be in the main Church, it would be convenient to have it done during that time. Discussion was held on the possibility of making the Chapel more accessible for those with disabilities.
- The cost of snow removal was $15,000, which was an unexpected expense.

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 Phil Coyne and seconded by Jim Polk. All voted "aye" and the minutes were approved.

Jim Polk reported on the Pastoral Plan Update. Cathy Ellis is working on this and due to the pressures of her job had not been able to complete it before the meeting. It will be distributed at the April PAC meeting. It will contain a spread sheet and spaces for comments. PAC members will be asked to volunteer to monitor specific areas of the plan.

Sister Roberta reported on the Liturgy Committee. There were several visitors at the Committee's recent meeting and there was a good discussion. A Working Group was set up but the snow interfered with its planned meeting. The Group will establish a Mission Statement for the music ministry and will set up measurable goals for meeting the needs of the Parish in the future. Dan Redmond, who is on the Committee, commented that they plan to analyze the acoustics in the Church to see if that can be improved. Msgr. Pennington added that the Music Director understands the direction in which the Church wants to move.

Sister Roberts said that schedules for Lenten events will be distributed regularly.

Jim Polk discussed "The Light is On" program and distributed sign-up sheets for volunteers to be in the Church during the confessional period each Wednesday in order to provide security.

He would like to have two volunteers for each of the two slots each Wednesday.

Tom Kane reported on the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge based on an e-mail message from Marie James which stated: "Our second meeting was cancelled due to the weather but we are beginning the sponsor drive next week. We still need to determine our beneficiary organization and work out a way to involve the children and give families a break on the race entry fee. Last year, children who participated in the physical fitness challenge were given free race entry but we didn't have much participation. The physical fitness piece was the part that would facilitate later grant potential, but we are setting that aside this year so that we can focus on the main event. However, we would like to have something along the fitness lines. We have discussed the possibility of giving interested participants a pedometer with a combined goal of walking across the state or something like that." It was suggested that Holy Cross Hospital might be willing to sponsor and provide pedometers.

Tom Kane reported that the committee working on the 60th Anniversary of the school would hold a meeting on Sunday, February 21. Marie James asked that Tom invite the participation of all PAC members in this event planning meeting.

Jim Polk reported that there is still no date set for the parish picnic, nor a chair in place for the event. We need both of these by the end of February. We can try to simplify the event so as to encourage someone to take it on.

Mary Brogan came in to discuss the Time, Talent and Treasure program. On the Time and Talent portion, Mary reported that they were hoping for more yellow cards than they got, but they are going ahead and getting the information collected. She said that the orientation sessions went well and they received some good on-site feedback. They are following up now with those who submitted cards, and also working with the heads of ministries to help them see the larger picture of parish needs and providing them with lists of people who had volunteered. Letters will go out to these volunteers as soon as possible. On the Treasure part, she and Bill Mulholland met with the stewardship people and they are moving forward on it. There were fewer cards with pledges but on the whole Bill felt we were doing well. She discussed their frustration with the computer facilities at St. John's, the lack of which greatly impedes the work of this program as well as that of other areas of parish work. Jim Polk and Msgr. Pennington commented that this is being worked on, and that wiring is in place for networking, but other components of the networking plan are not yet in place.

Msgr. Pennington distributed a budget document. At the last finance committee meeting a CPA came and talked about the finances and approved the format of St. John's budget document. The document was discussed in depth. It will go out to parishioners soon.

Not present at the meeting were Noelyne Alzona, John Capobianco, Ellen Cronin, Chris Gillis, Carla Haywood, Allan Jimenez, Rick Maurano, and Willie White.

There being no further business, Msgr. Pennington led the group in the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra J. Liebel