

MERGED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF  
HOLY CROSS, ST. CATHERINE, AND ST. MARK  
OCTOBER 9, 2006

Members Present:

Fr. Tim Birney	Mary Endres	Midge Fannon	Angela Rochon
Sandy Malik	Mary Patrick	Mike Rector	Matt Fett, III
Debbie Vernier	Sandy McNeely	Paul Ivan, III	Ralph Buchman
Peggy White			

Members Excused: Margie Smith Don Smith

Others Present: Sr. Janet

1. OPENING PRAYER: Meeting was called to order by Sandy Malik at 6:35 P.M. Fr. Tim passed out prayer sheets for our opening prayer.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes from September, with a couple of revisions, was made by Midge Fannon. Seconded by Debbie Vernier. Carried.
3. VICARIATE REPORT: Sandy McNeely, Blue Water Vicariate Rep., stated that Bishop Boyea attended the first Vicariate Meeting, which was held at All Saints Parish in Memphis on Sept. 13th at 7 p.m. It was decided that all Vicariate meetings this year will be held at All Saints in Memphis.

Fr. Joe Horn showed his "Together in Faith" power point presentation. The response has been overwhelming positive in his cluster parishes.

Craig LaDuke presented a report on Cardinal Mooney High School. Improvements were made during the summer and the enrollment is good. There are foreign exchange students from Korea. The Freshmen had a retreat at St. Mark's and the Seniors went on retreat at Subiaco on Oct. 3 and 4th It was brought up what the Vicariate could do to more actively recruit students. Bishop Boyea recommends contact with religious education families about the possibility of enrolling at Catholic Schools.

Sr. Barbara Philippart from Our Lady of Guadalupe, reported that there are 5 members on the Social Justice/Multicultural Committee (including Barbara Susan and Gretchen Forrester from our parish), which had their first meeting to establish goals and the method that the committee will examine sources of information. A questionnaire with international national, state and local issues was discussed for input to be returned back to the SJ/MT committee. A flyer was distributed about the Mexican Dinners at Our Lady of Guadalupe on Oct.

20th and November 3rd. Next meeting scheduled for November 8th at All Saints in Memphis. Members of our Parish Council listed the following issues which they thought were pertinent to be taken back to Sr. Barbara:

- a. A non-violent movement with 40 days of peace will take place which promotes activities in the Blue Water area.
- b. Border Patrol issues.
- c. Immigration Reform.
- d. Ethical election issues.
- e. Elimination of affirmative action.
- f. Housing issues,
- g. Medication for the elderly.
- h. State of the economy.
- i. Heating bill assistance.
- j. Social justice group meets monthly.

#### 4. COMMISSION REPORTS:

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Margie Smith, DRE, sent a report, stating classes began September 17th for preschool, and the 18th and 19th for grades 1-8. As of today, there are 360 students, 118 of which are from St. Catherine's Parish. There are 26 teachers this year. First Communion at Holy Cross will be on Saturday, May 5, 2007, and at St. Catherine on Saturday, May 12, 2007, both at 11:00 a.m.

Confirmation at Holy Cross is Sunday, May 6, 2007 at 11:30 a.m. with Bishop Quinn and at St. Catherine's on Saturday, May 5, 2007 at 4:00 p.m, with Bishop Boyea. On Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Holy Cross is offering topic #4 - "What is Faith?" from 6-8 pm in the school with Mike Maras as presenter. There is an RCIC Program on Monday night during Rel. Ed. Classes. Mr. David Salvador is in charge of children who either need to be baptized or who have not yet made their First Communion.

#### 5. PASTOR REPORT:

A. Fr. Tim passed out sheets entitled "A Global Church in a Globalized World, by John L. Allen, Jr." The United States has 67 million Catholics, which represents 6 percent of the global Catholic population of 1.1 billion. We are the fourth largest country in the world, after Brazil (144 million), Mexico (126 million), and the Philippines (70 million). Those three countries represent a block of 340 million Catholics, more than 30 percent of the global total.

Africa in the 20th century has gone from a Catholic population of 1.9 million in 1900 to 130 million in 2000, a growth of 6,708 percent, the most rapid expansion of Catholicism in a single continent in 2,000 years of church history. In 2004, 20 priests were ordained in all of England and Wales, while Nigeria alone ordained more than 200, which shows a new emerging church in Africa.

Asia went from 11 million Catholics to 107 million, a growth of 861 percent. Pope John Paul II defined Asia as the great missionary horizon of the church in the 20 century, which attaches the importance of the Holy See to diplomatic relations in China. If there are 13 million Chinese Catholics today, there could be 100 million within a couple of generations.

Latin America has half of the world's Catholics, at 520 million. Four of the ten Largest Catholic countries in the world are in Latin America: Brazil, Mexico, Columbia, and Argentina. Guatemala has gone from 95 percent Catholic to 60 Percent. Peru was 97 percent Catholic in 1992 and, in 2002, was 75 percent. Latin America feels there time is coming to offer leadership to the universal Church. The runner up in the conclave was a Latin American, Cardinal Jorge Maria Bergoglio of Argentina.

The Middle East has 2.1 million Catholics, in union with Rome, in the middle east, with the largest groupings in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and the Holy Land. These populations are in decline today because of pressures of economic stagnation and the rise of Islamic radicalism. Today, there are more Palestinian Christians in Australia, than in Palestine. In Bethlehem, the Christian population has dropped from 80 percent before 1948 to less than 30 percent today. The Holy See worries that if Christianity disappears from the Arab world, then a value bridge between the West and Islam will be lost. Hence, while their numbers are small, the fate of Christians looms large in the imagination of Vatican policy- makers.

Europe claims 283 million Catholics, but the practice of the faith is relatively inert in countries such as Belgium, France, and Holland. Europe's fertility rates are also dropping, 1.2 percent have been recorded in Italy and Spain. In Eastern Europe, such as Ukraine, Catholic communities are experiencing a Renaissance.

Given this overview, Catholicism of the 20 century, the global worth of Africa and the Philippines will play an increasingly important role in setting the global agenda. Catholicism is one faith, but has to be expressed through many cultures. Generally speaking, theologians and prelates from the developing world will push for greater freedom to adapt Eurocentric models of worship and doctrinal expression of the Western church to their own.

The bottom line is that in a globalized church, America's sense of what is important, which issues need immediate engagement and which can wait, what the Pope might be thinking about when he gets out of bed in the morning, will increasingly yield pride of place. This will pose a challenge to American Catholics as to how willing are we to see ourselves as part of a worldwide family of faith, even if things don't go the way we think they should? Can we bring ourselves to accept that the church before our eyes will probably never be the church of our dreams, and perhaps that's for the best, since our dreams are always more limited than those of the entire communion spread across space and through time.

B. Fr. also passed out a draft from The Roman Catholic Community of Norwich (St. Bartholomew Church and St. Paul Church) which just recently merged their parishes regarding the constraints faced in Pastoral Planning, the Planning Process, the Parish Council Meeting, which was attended by Bishop Ed Falsey, OPM, who was invited to assist the council through the process of change, the Planning Subcommittee, Demographics related to both churches, and the recommendations from the Planning Subcommittee to the Parish Council. This was just to give us an idea of what another parish has experienced.

C. Fr. Tim informed us of the incident that happened in church, while he was away in Ireland, during Rel. Ed classes so we might be informed as to how to explain it to parishioners who ask.

6. WORSHIP COMMISSION: Sr. Janet, Pastoral Minister, stated the Sept. 25 Worship Commission Meeting was very well attended. She said it was good to meet the various chairs and reps of the 2 churches and chapel.

The Liturgical Environment sub-committee for colorful Liturgical drapery have been meeting. St. Catherine added both green for ordinary time and purple for Lent/Advent through the Ladies Guild donation of \$500. Holy Cross has also been working at this. Sr. Janet will meet with the Altar Society in October. A sub-committee has been formed to work on the Advent wreath. Mary Patrick, Dawn Bates, and Sarah Anderson will meet with Sr. Janet on Oct. 9 in the CMC library at 3 p.m.

Ministers to the Nursing Home Teams have been formed for each Saturday and their names were listed in the bulletin. She still could use a few extra helpers.

Fr. Tim and Sr. Janet will set up a refresher class for EMs and Lectors. She discussed a communion flow problem, brought to attention by Eleanor Pilawski

at St. Catherine's, which needs correction on the choir side at the cup. The Little Blue Books for Advent have been ordered.

Oct. 18, Deacon Alex Jones will speak at St. Catherine at 7 p.m.

Advent: 4 Scripture Classes on the Infancy Narratives will be offered Nov. 8 - Dec. 13 on Wednesday at 1 p.m. or 7 p.m. by Sr. Janet using the Little Rock Series. Registration Forms will be in the Bulletin. Cost \$10 per person for materials.

Lent: 9 Scripture Classes on The Challenge of Bringing the Good News to New Places (The culture of the Jews to the Gentiles) begins Feb. 8-Apr. 4 at 1 p.m. or 7 p.m. Wednesday using a Little Rock Series with Sr. Janet. Cost \$10.00 for materials. Parish Leadership Conferences were well attended. Eighteen members attended one of the five sites.

In the Sister's Searchlight Article, Sr. Janet is trying to write briefly about various parts of the Mass to educate or update parishioners.

7. OLD BUSINESS: none addressed at this Meeting.

8. MEMBERS REPORTS: Sandy Malik mentioned the Flu Shot Clinic on Oct. 15 from 10-11 p.m.

Mary Endres mentioned the Deacon Alex Jones talk Oct. 18 at St. Catherine at 7:45 p.m.

Fr. Tim answered Ralph Buchman's question on why we are choosing a new name for the parish. We will become one parish name with three church individual church names. The process will take place after we receive ballots back which will be placed in the Sunday envelope. Then, we will go through all names submitted at our next Parish Council Meeting. We will then give our findings back to the parishioners to vote for one. Finally, we will submit this name to Cardinal Maida for approval and our recommendations to let the merger take place. The Diocese has all records needed to submit to the Cardinal.

Ralph Buchman suggested the parishioners put their reason for choosing a specific name. Fr. will put this in next week's bulletin.

Midge Fannon stated some people are concerned about Financial Improvements at Holy Cross. Fr. stated there will be one account for our budget. (School Bus Fund and Organ Fund will be separate). St. Catherine and St. Mark both have savings accounts. Savings will go into a sub-account. Parish Council will decide

on giving extra funds to each church as the need arises. Buildings and debts for Holy Cross will be taken care of through the Capital Campaign pledges. People must trust that the money will be used appropriately. The budget will be open for all to see. Parish Council members will receive a Quarterly Report. We will be good stewards of money entrusted to the parish. Midge also asked if minutes will be published in the bulletin. Fr. Tim stated that since they are too long for the bulletin that they will be put online by Barbara Susan. Anyone interested, may call the office for a copy or receive them in the mail.

Paul Ivan asked if Baptisms and Marriages would be registered at the individual church where they were performed. It will be listed as Baptized at \_\_\_\_\_parish at Holy Cross Church. Phones will be answered as \_\_\_\_\_parish of Holy Cross Church or Parish Offices, May I help you? We should feel informed to answer parishioners questions and keep a positive attitude.

Fr. Tim stated that we will go over the names submitted on ballots at our next meeting.

Ralph Buchman asked about when the roof would be started on. Fr. stated the roof will be started on this month (Wednesday). There is \$200,000 on hand. Two companies are bidding on the roof. The Rectory Roof will be included. Both roofs will cost \$160,000-\$180,000.

Peggy White asked if we had enough money in the budget to secure an outdoor sign, as ours has the legs missing. Fr. stated a sign such as this costs \$8,000.

9. Mary Endres concluded the Meeting with a reading from the Letter of St. Paul to Titus on Moral Behavior.

10 Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 p.m. Our next meeting will be Monday, November 13, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Catherine Chapel.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy White,  
Parish Council Secretary