

St. Charles Pastoral Council Minutes
Saint Charles Parish Center

September 20, 2011
7 p.m.

In Attendance: Fr. Michael, Chris Bannon, Mary Beth Briggs, Jean Childress, JoAnn Clark, Michael Flanagan, Ed and Shirley Karmilovich, John McCormick, Joan Natali, Sandy Storherr, Michael and Terry Strub, Sharon Varricchio, Margaret Ziegler, and Carol Zuccarino.

Absent: Marge Briden, Don Donovan, Jeanette Orzo, Evelyn Pinili, and Marion Simonsen.

Guest: Marta Rose

Call to Order

- Scripture reading by Sandy Storherr. Discussion followed.
- Motion was made by Chris Bannon and Michael Flanagan to accept the minutes of the last meeting; motion passed.

New Business

- Joan Natali explained that she had asked that the Finance Council be represented at each of our meetings to answer questions and make reports; Marta Rose was present in that capacity. Marta said that, according to Diocesan guidelines, there should be a Parish Council member serving as finance leader to work with the various committees in overseeing monthly budgets. She noted that there is currently no one in that position. Joan tabled this matter for discussion later in the meeting.

Committee Reports

- *Administration*
 - Joan Natali reported that Joe Witek has contacted her concerning an apparent leak in the roof above the choir loft. He had offered to get an engineering report, which would cost about \$2,500, to identify the problem. Motion was made by Michael Flanagan and seconded by Terry Strub to authorize Tommy Arnold to bring in a professional to prepare a detailed report and assessment of the damages and the cost of the repair.

Michael Flanagan reported that the water damage is not just in the wall but also in the beam above the loft. He said that the hurricane caused pieces of the beam to break off. John McCormick recommended leaving the debris as it is. Michael Strub asked if we should have someone fix the leak, and Joan replied that what we are seeing is just a symptom of the problem. She added that Joe is proposing that we get a formal appraisal of the situation. She also stressed that the \$2,500 was for the report, not the repairs.

Since the Finance Council has indicated that our budget is tight, we will have to come up with a way to fund it. Marta said that the grants that she has researched are too small but recommended exploring the assistance available through the Catholic Church Extension Society.

Joan closed the discussion and called for a vote. Everyone voted in favor of the motion.

➤ *Religious Education*

- Jean Childress reported that 15 students have already registered for Religious Education instruction, but the start of the sessions on October 2 will bring more participants. There are currently two Confirmands but that number will likely increase as well. She said that she now has all the teachers for the classes. Dan Cabello will translate. Jean said that the Diocese has been very good about giving educational material for each grade level.

➤ *Ecumenical*

- Mary Beth Briggs had no formal report but said that this committee has discussed buying more books for the Stations of the Cross.

➤ *Fund Raising*

- Michael Flanagan said he was still accepting requests for pavers but hoped to place the order next week. He expects them to arrive in plenty of time for placement in the ground before winter.
- Michael announced the Arts and Crafts Show and Sale in the Parish Hall on October 29. He urged anyone who is an artist or who does crafts to see one of the committee members. Mary Beth will be handling the bake sale as part of the show.
- The Diocese sent \$1,000 from the Fuel and Hunger Fund, which goes to the Justice and Peace Committee.

➤ *Justice and Peace*

- Terry Strub reported on her conversations with Jim Albright and explained our responsibilities for the seminarian(s) assigned to us for the 2012 Summer Pastoral Ministry. These responsibilities include housing and keeping the seminarian's car in running order. He or they will probably be here from June through the last week in August. Terry distributed an outline detailing the goals and responsibilities of the Migrant Farm Worker Ministry.
- Terry and Mike expressed the hope that they will know who the seminarian is by February but said they will definitely have that information by May. Joan suggested that if we haven't heard by January, Parish Council could make an effort to get the name. John McCormick added that Jim has committed to assuming a certain amount of the housing costs if the seminarian is not Hector Amortegui.
- Terry and Michael took supplies and clothing to the family of the slain migrant worker in Accomack County. They also have informed Jim that they have blankets available for the coming winter months. It was noted that the items stored in the basement should be moved.
- Joan noted that the \$1,000 from the Fuel and Hunger Fund would be forwarded to Eleanor

Tross for the Northampton County Social Ministries.

➤ *Parish Life*

- John McCormick distributed a report on the Parish Picnic held on September 18 at the Parish Center. The total cost of the event to the Parish was \$282.49; an additional \$27 was donated to cover the Kiptopeke cancellation fee and the tolls to travel to BJ's. John expressed the thanks of the entire Picnic Committee to all those who helped make the event a success.
- Chris Bannon reported on calendar items:
 - (1) The date for the New Parishioners' Dinner will be changed.
 - (2) The Knights of Columbus have asked if we want to have a St. Patrick's party and split the proceeds.
 - (3) Chris suggested moving the Italian dinner from July to February 26, which is the first Sunday of Lent.

➤ *Worship*

- Chris announced that St. Charles and Emmanuel Episcopal Churches will celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi with the blessing of pets on Saturday, October 8.
- Chris hoped to meet on September 26 to prepare for the new Mass and to start planning for Christmas. JoAnn Clark suggested rescheduling the visitation of the churches of Cape Charles for sometime during the Christmas season.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

➤ *Parish Election Review Committee*

- John McCormick gave some background on the purpose of this committee. Its two main objectives are (1) to determine who is presently on Council and whether they were elected or appointed and when, and (2) to review the Parish Council Constitution and By-Laws to determine whether or not an actual election timeline exists and, if so, what that timeline is. He distributed a packet containing the committee's findings and indicated the areas of confusion and contradiction. He urged all Council members to review this packet carefully for further discussion at next month's meeting.

➤ *Crab Feast Research*

- Joan reported that Joe Peirson has told her that the crab season is over and that this season hasn't been good. She added that the alternative is to have a clam and oyster roast in October. She will put this item on the next month's meeting agenda.

New Business (Continued)

- Continuing the discussion started earlier, Joan said that she would like the same member of the Finance Council to be present every month. Marta said that she is the representative for tonight's meeting and that, once Council selects a member to be the Finance Committee liaison, that person could work with the Finance Council directly. Joan emphasized that Parish Council and the parishioners must be kept informed and up to date on financial matters.

- Joan said that we need to work with the Finance Council to communicate better and asked if the members thought we should have a finance committee within Parish Council. The consensus was no, but John McCormick added that a liaison would be helpful. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to have John serve as liaison between the two boards. Michael Strub volunteered to assist as necessary.
- Joan distributed budget summaries to each committee chairperson.

Open Forum/Walk-Ins

- Joan reminded everyone of the retreat scheduled for September 30 and October 1 and reviewed who would be attending. St. Peter's is organizing the event and has asked each participating church to be responsible for a meal; St. Charles will provide breakfast.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be October 18, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. with Michael Strub as our scripture reader.

Pastor's Time

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Clark