

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Pastoral Council Minutes
January 6, 2009**

Present: Fr. Larry, Judy DeCraene, James Hunter, Art Minadeo, Adam Novotny, Bernie O'Neill, Jackie Pellegrino, Crissy Reid, Bill Sharp, Lisa Sliker, Barb Smith and Chuck Steele.

Absent: Fr. Arnold and Bill Glover

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was given by Father Larry.

Status Reports:

1. **Parish Capital Campaign** - Crissy reported that in Phase 2 of the Campaign there have been slightly over \$900,000.00 in pledges. Lisa stated that 309 total families have made pledges to date totaling \$2.3M and that 55 families have given in both phases. The average gift is \$5,800.00. Crissy also stated that there will be a Commitment Weekend in January (the exact date has not been decided upon yet) where Fr. Arnold will speak at all of the masses about the Campaign. There will be in-pew commitment forms for those who have not previously made a pledge.
2. **Mass Time Discussion** – the Council stated that all feedback received has been positive for the addition of the 5:00 Sunday evening mass. Adam stated that the music for the Sunday evening mass is being organized by Mark Schmidt, previously a parishioner at St. Mark's in Catonsville.
3. **Holy Works Fair** – Art stated that the dates for this event are set for May 16th and 17th after all masses. Art lead a discussion in changing the name of the event back to the Ministries Fair and there was a unanimous vote in favor of the change. Lisa suggested sending out personal invitations to all new members from the Welcome Committee database. Art noted that an addition to the event this year will be registration for religious education. Because of the additional space needed for registration, he is concerned about the space limitations with respect to the amount of food that we provide. There was a discussion as to whether to keep the food simple (coffee and donuts) or to have the Knights prepare a pancake breakfast as they did last year. Bill Sharp will speak with the Knights.

New Business:

1. **Archdiocese Catholic Education Summit** - James reported that this month Archbishop O'Brien is convening a summit of priests to help strengthen Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Because of declining enrollment in many schools and increasing financial challenges, the Archdiocese is doing a study on schools in which the following three items apply:
 - a. Enrollment is down.
 - b. Bills to the Archdiocese are not being paid.
 - c. There are no funding reserves in place.

OLPH is not on the list of schools to be visited because none of the above items apply.

2. **Archbishop's Annual Appeal** (previously the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal) – James reported that this Appeal will take place in February of this year instead of during lent. At all masses on the 2nd weekend in February, in all parishes in the Archdiocese, there will be a showing of a DVD of the Bishop speaking about the Appeal and pledge forms will be available in the pews. There will be another request during all masses on the 3rd weekend of February.

In the past OLPH has given equally to Haiti and St. Veronica's (50-50) but this year Fr. Arnold would like to also contribute a small portion to Christ Life. James stated that Fr. Arnold needs two co-chairs for the Campaign and asked if anyone had any suggestions and if so, to send him an e-mail to that effect.

Open Forum:

1. Barb suggested including the Plant Manager's name on the bulletin.
2. Barb was approached by a parishioner about the possibility of having a cell tower placed on OLPH property. James stated that the Archdiocese has a process for obtaining a cell tower. He will bring it up to the Finance Committee as a revenue item.
3. James reported that Dana La Rosa sent him a note asking if the Pastoral Council could provide coffee and donuts after the 9:00 children's mass on Sunday, January 11th. Previously, Mia has taken care of the purchase and set up of these items but Dana cannot because she has to play the piano at all of the masses. Judy agreed to organize this. Adam volunteered to purchase the donuts and orange juice; Lisa and Crissy will provide large coffee pots and Crissy and Barb volunteered to help Judy with set up. Art suggested that we organize a hospitality committee to take care of all parish social events in the future.
4. There was a suggestion to propose to Fr. Arnold that we add the daily scripture readings and the following Sunday readings to the Bulletin.

Next Meeting: February 3, 2009

Closing Prayer: James provided the closing prayer.