

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

Present: Father Arnold, Fr. McLean, Chuck Steele, Lisa Sliker, Art Minadeo, Bill Sharp, Crissy Reid, Jackie Pellegrino, Adam Novotny, Laura Randazzo, Bernie O'Neill and Barb Smith

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was given by Fr. Arnold.

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Minutes for the September 1st meeting were approved.

Resignation of Judy DeCraene: Chuck distributed a letter from Judy stating her decision to resign, effective immediately, and her reasons. Jackie will send a response to Judy.

Pastor's Report:

1. **Review of schools:** On Thursday, October 1st, members of the Blue Ribbon Committee, appointed by the Archdiocese to review all of the schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, spent the day at OLPH. The review was very favorable especially with respect to Catholic identity, sense of family, finances and academics. The official report should be received within a few weeks.
2. **Capital Campaign:** Father stated that some pledges have been made since he spoke at all masses on September 27th.

Proposals by Knights of Columbus: Scott O'Leary, Grand Knight, spoke of two ideas that he wanted to place before the Council:

1. **Roundtable:** Scott proposed having a monthly or quarterly meeting of all parish ministries (one representative per ministry to be in attendance). The goal of the meeting would be to unite the ministries. The Council looked favorably on this request. Chuck requested that Scott prepare guidelines and information about the roundtable to be submitted to the Council before the November meeting.
2. **Pavilion:** Scott proposed that the Knights build a pavilion at the ball fields that would be large enough to accommodate about 100 people. The Knights would prepare the design, fund the construction of the facility and maintain it. However, they would not be in charge of scheduling for use of the Pavilion. The Council approved the proposal. Father Arnold stated that OLPH has obtained bronze outdoor stations of the cross statues that he would like to place in close proximity to the Pavilion site so would like the Knights to keep that in mind when designing the Pavilion.

Action Items:

1. **Catholic Advocacy Initiative:** Fr. Arnold passed out information on the 2009 Catholic Advocacy Initiative. He discussed that the Maryland Catholic Conference would like parishes to identify parishioners who would be effective in meeting personally with legislators and communicating with them on issues of importance to the Catholic community. Father would like to identify three parishioners who could meet with Senator Ed Kassemeyer to discuss the issue of poverty, specifically the legislation to oppose cuts to programs that serve those in most need. Fr. would like the Council to consider those parishioners that have the qualities

listed on the attached document (provided by the Maryland Catholic Conference) and e-mail him with any recommendations. Bill suggested using Jane Ward as a resource, possibly a coach to the three selected advocates. He also recommended John Vaccarino. Jackie was asked to send a reminder to all Pastoral Council members.

2. Review of the Constitution:

a. Mission Statement: Adam reported that his group discussed the Mission Statement and what it should entail. Everyone in the group agreed that the Mission statement should be short and to the point and state “who we are” and “what we do” and nothing further. Adam and his group came up with three sample Mission Statements and also discussed having the Mission Statement be a prayer. Father McLean agreed that the statement should be a declaration of what we do and quoted the Gospel of Mark stating “baptize all nations in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

b. Article III – Membership: Crissy summarized her group’s findings as follows:

1. Section I – No change to the number of members.
2. Section II – No addition of ex officio members but suggested that, in order to keep abreast of what’s going on in the parish, there be levels of reporting as stated in the attached document which her group prepared. She also said that her group recommends that two council members be assigned to each of the six ministry categories. The assigned Council members would be responsible for contacting the ministries in September to determine their activities for the year.
3. Section III – No changes

3. 2009-2010 Annual Retreat: In light of the fact that the Pastoral Leadership Orientation and the Haiti Gala are both on October 24th, Chuck asked if any of the Council members would like to change the date of the Retreat. All agreed to it remaining the same date but limiting it to three hours. Father stated that he would like the retreat to be Refreshing for all attendees. Chuck and Adam will be preparing an agenda and will send it out shortly.

4. Pastoral Leadership Orientation: Lynne registered everyone for the Pastoral Leadership Orientation; the bill will be sent to the Parish for payment.

Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee: Chuck distributed the Statement of Operations – July – August, 2009 and briefly explained the report.

New Business: Laura suggested placing cold calls to parishioners to introduce ourselves and question them as to whether they have concerns or comments about their experiences at OLPH. Father stated that Erica Lucas from Legion of Mary is organizing private visits with Catholics in the neighborhoods surrounding OLPH. He suggested that we link the private visits by the Legion of Mary with our introductory phone calls.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is schedule for Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Chuck stated that he and Sue would like to invite all members of the Council and one guest to a get-together at his house on December 1st in lieu of the December meeting.

Closing Prayer: The closing prayer was offered by Fr. McLean.