

BASILICA BRIEFS - February 2010

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL met on Feb. 4 at 7:00 pm. Present were Fr. Kruse, Fr. Gross, Deacon Miller, Bart Osterhaus, Mark Kronlage, Mike Helle, Ben Thier, Larry Knipper, Ann Heisler, Joan Recker, Angela English, Pat Valant and Mary Kruse. Minutes from the January meeting were approved.

In OLD BUSINESS:

- § Website presentation was given on possible updates to the Xavier Basilica website. Options for a new cover page were presented and ideas discussed of what the Board would like the site to look like. A sample of the site will be given at the next meeting.
- § Finance Council reported that FEMA purchase of the parish house is almost complete. The newsletter has been well received. Parishioners have come forward to cover the cost of the newsletter. Letters were sent to parishioners in reference to the contribution/tithing report. The steps entering in the east center doors of the church are breaking out and will need to be looked into.
- § St. Francis Xavier Feast Day - Fr. Gross asked about holding a special Mass in honor of our patron saint, St. Francis Xavier on Dec. 3, and follow with other activities. He'd like to see our Parish congregate and celebrate our patron saint. More discussion will be held at the next meeting but the Board voted to commit to this celebration the weekend of Dec. 3 and to involve numerous parish committees.
- § Liturgy & Spiritual Life Committee met in January. A walk through of the Basilica was done. Christmas decorations were discussed with possible updates needed for next year. The Youth Mass is going over well and they hope to schedule one each month. A meeting was held with all music leaders to discuss planning the music.
- § Parish Life - a welcome packet that goes out to new parishioners was shared with the members. The Council would like to see a follow up with new parishioners. Other ideas were also given to welcome new parishioners. There were 48 new parishioners in 2009. The schedule of events for circles was submitted.
- § Xavier Board of Education minutes were reviewed. The Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 21. The Xavier Affair fundraiser went over very well with a lot of positive feedback. Tuition cost was discussed as well as family service hours.
- § Social Concerns - a Cluster Social Concerns has been formed with meetings held monthly rotating at the five parishes. The coming together for the Cluster committee will be to help each other with ideas and to share concerns. Individual Parish Social Concerns will continue.
- § Parish Mission sessions were well attended and successful.
- § Cleaning of the Altars will be done by the Kaiser Company. A donation has been received to cover the costs.
- § DRA Grant will be applied for to help with renovation of the church basement bathrooms, making a handicap accessible unisex bathroom.

In NEW BUSINESS:

- # The manual for Parish Pastoral Council were discussed.
- # Convent rent - the extension of use of the convent for the city is uncertain as the city looks for alternate sites.
The 2010-2011 budget reduction was discussed. The Board went into executive session 8:15-9:00 pm
The next meeting will be on March 4 at 7:00 pm

SPIRITUAL GROWTH & LITURGY COMMITTEE met on Feb. 1 in the rectory meeting room. Present: Fr. Gross, Jim Bonert, Mary Kruse, Gayla Boice, Deacon Miller, Jane & Ron Deutmeyer, Kevin & Wesley Gudenkauf, Jerry McGrane and Linda Begle. The opening prayer was *The Gloria*. Chapter 4 of the How to Book of the Mass was discussed with the focus on the Gloria. The history of prayer was discussed. Next month the focus will be on chapters 5 & 6. A short review regarding the Archbishops Guidelines for Pastoral Council revisions for this committee was given. The new guidelines are expected to take effect summer of 2011.

In OLD BUSINESS:

- § Proposed Mass times for Christmas was given to Fr. Kruse. More evening confessions were suggested too. Some new purchases have been made regarding Christmas decorations for next year. A focus on the doors for next year was suggested. Consideration will be needed for other Holy Day Masses when the five cluster parishes are down to two priests.
- § The Youth Mass in January went well. It was suggested to have one a month. Fr. Gross and Jerry McGrane will

plan them.

§ The Confirmation Program is being reviewed.

§ Music leaders met Jan. 18 and they plan to meet 3-4 times year for planning input and better communication.

In NEW BUSINESS:

Liturgy and Spiritual Growth parts of this committee maybe separated with the new guidelines. Suggested that 2-3 from this committee form to oversee a formation committee and possibly could develop into a cluster committee.

Deacon Miller handed out the Parish Marriage Guidelines pamphlet to the committee.

Five RCIA candidates, one to be baptized and 4 to be confirmed, will be done at the Easter Vigil.

Lenten Programs have been schedule.

The next meeting will be March 1st at 7:00 p.m. Focus will be discussion on Corpus Christi, an update on the Children's Liturgy, seating for young families bringing up the offertory gifts, and Communion of the Cup.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER BOARD of EDUCATION met on Jan. 18 in School. Present were Tom Hageman, Janet Stelken, Angela English, Peter Smith. Terry Kluesner, Heidi Wall, Barry Koelker, Deacon Fred Pins, Peter Smith and Kathy Valant. Fr. Gross also attended.

Fr. Gross discussed an idea with the Board about celebrating the Feast Day of St. Francis Xavier, Dec. 3rd as a parish wide celebration. The Board is willing to help in pursuing this idea further. Also discussed the scheduling of families as gift bearers. Fr. Gross and Deacon Pins explained the changes that will be coming in the Confirmation Program to enhance the program and to make it consistent among cluster parishes and to be in compliance with the Archdiocesan policies.

December minutes were approved and the Financial report reviewed and accepted.

There will be a Schwan's Fundraiser. The Board discussed the timing of fund raisers, but agreed to go ahead with this one with the beginning of Lent. It would allow all the opportunity to purchase fish products as well as gift certificates.

Deacon Pins reported on the Religious Ed Program. Confirmation will March 20 at the 4 pm Mass. Candidates will be interviewed and required to attend 40 hours as part of their Confirmation preparation. First Communion will be Saturday, April 17 at 2:00 pm

In the principal's report, Mr. Smith reported on the Archdiocesan STO; we have been designated \$48,000 from the campaign that ended 12/31/09. The Archdiocesan wide goal of 3.79 million was met. He encouraged everyone to apply for STO grants. The Playground Committee has met and the plans to have the fencing in place by September is still on track. The house on the corner will be demolished soon. The school will apply for a DRA grant for playground equipment. Catholic school week is underway. Teachers will be involved in the budgeting process.

The Board discussed tuition rates for non-tithing parishioners. This needs to be addressed on the Parish level first.

Tuition rates for 20102011 were discussed. STO information from the current school year was given. 42% of students received grants from the STO program; 156 students out of 374. STO grants are available for K-6 grades only, not early childhood. After further discussion tuition for 2010-2011 was set. Tuition for K-6 will be \$1490.

Vacation Bible School dates have been set for the week of June 21. A theme is still being worked on. Volunteers will be needed.

Amy Vorwald gave the Board a Problem Solving Overview. Problem Solving is identifying a student with needs and setting goals with teachers for the student's achievement. Needs that develop for any student will first be attempted to be solved in the classroom. Teachers meet to discuss the methods to help students overcoming difficulties. If targeted achievements are not met then the next step is have the student meet with Amy for one-on-one or small group instruction. This process is going well.

The next meeting of the Xavier Board of Education will be Feb. 8 at 5:30 pm in the Art Room.