

Pastoral Advisory Council
Minutes – June 18, 2007

- Joe Pesola called the meeting to order. Father Jude led the opening prayer
- The minutes for the April 30th Meeting were approved subject to a correction involving the Religious Education Report. Deacon Michael indicated that the Religious Education hours were not increased as reported; rather a new parent's home component was added in order to comply with the Cardinal's request to increase the time devoted to religious education. Under this home component the parent's will supplement religious instruction (approximately 15 hours) at home. The home instruction will increase religious education to a total of 45 hours.
- Carlo Laraia reported that the recent fund-raising clothing drive collected over 9000 pounds of usable clothing, which filled a 24-foot truck to the brim. The parish will receive a check for \$1,256.
- Maryrose Goebel reported on the new Catechism seminar that Fr. Matthew led in May. The morning session was very well attended but the evening session started pretty well but died out and by the 4th session was cancelled.

The recent parish questionnaire soliciting parishioner comment regarding parish program preferences indicated an interest in a session on the scripture readings. Deacon Vincent has started such a session in June.

Fr. Jude has graciously agreed to lead a course on World Religions in the fall.

The Education & Formation Committee is also pondering the formation of a book discussion group during the next fiscal year.

- Ritamarie Caiati reported for the Worship & Spiritual Life committee on the expanded Bereavement Ministry. There will be an initial meeting on Wednesday June 20th for the 4 bereavement ministry volunteers, Eileen McKeown, Msgr. Moore and herself. Deacon & Mrs. Moran and possibly Deacon & Mrs. Scarfi from St. John the Evangelist Parish in Mahopac will also attend. The purpose of the meeting is for the SJC volunteers to receive an overview of what the expanded Bereavement Ministry will entail and for the SJC volunteers to confirm their willingness to participate. Once the volunteers have been confirmed, they will attend a training session given by a Diocese representative. This training session will be open to St. John the Evangelist Parish and St. Patrick's Parish in Yorktown, should they desire to participate.
- Dennis Crilly reported on parish finances – The Cardinal's Appeal has pledges of \$88,267 (121% of the parish goal). When the pledges are fully paid the parish will receive a rebate of 60% of the amount over our goal, approximately \$7,800. Last year we received about \$7,000.

- Richard Casterella gave a building and grounds report – The feasibility study for the new church at the Kennedy HS site is not yet complete. They hope to have the results later this month or early next month. The feasibility study for the current Croton Falls location has been completed.

- Msgr. Moore gave the school report – The school is doing well. The Kindergarteners will be moved to the Pre-K so that the 8th grade can have its own classroom. We expect as many as 15 students in next year's 8th grade. We also expect about 180 total students next year although it is early for registration and there are always changes due to cost or families moving. We graduated 4 young men this year. There will be small tuition adjustment for families with multiple children in the school, which will be in line with standards in other parishes in the area.

- Deacon Michael Devivo reported that Religious Education enrollment to-date is at 75% of expected registration. The registration deadline has been extended to July 16th and mailings will be sent to remind families. A drive for new Catechists is also in hand.

- Msgr. Moore gave the Pastor's Report –
 - He thanked Carlo and Donna Laraia and his committee for the wonderful job they did on the Dinner Dance. Over \$51,000 was cleared.
 - Msgr. thanked Deacon Michael for coming on board. He has 2 coordinating helpers on his staff. They are following the Diocesan guidelines with regard to increased hours for religious education.
 - Msgr. thanked the parish for the celebration of his ordination over the Memorial Day weekend.
 - Msgr. stressed again the need to clear the cloud that has developed over the location of the new Church. We have to remember that the Cardinal has to make the decision because he not only has to think about the near future but also has to plan for the next 40 and even 200 years. The Kennedy site is being looked at not only as a possible site for the new church but also as a site for additional buildings serving the wider community.
 - Msgr. welcomed Deacon Vincent back for a second summer. He probably will return next summer before his ordination the following May (2009). Msgr. hopes that when Deacon Vincent is ordained he will celebrate a second Mass at St. Joseph's.
 - Jim Flood asked a question about whether we could approach the town about getting signs put up to slow traffic as it passed the school. Msgr. thought this was a great idea and it would be looked into.
 - Joe Decaminada asked how our finances compared to other parishes. Msgr. talked about the parishes that publish their numbers. St. Joseph's has about 2,700 families and average between \$13,500 and \$14,000 per week. St.

Patrick's with 5,000 families averages about \$26,000 per week. With collections up slightly, our parish finances are OK at the present time but could always be better. The parish needs to encourage parishioners to use the envelope giving-system and also include periodic articles in the parish bulletin designed to promote parishioner contributions.

- Other Matters:
 - Bill Monti, the Respect Life committee chairman recently suggested a series of announced masses to encourage prayer and emphasize various Respect Life concerns. Msgr. Moore endorsed the idea and proposed that special a Mass each week in October, Respect Life month as well as a special monthly Mass. The Respect Life ministry will handle scheduling.
 - The parish will have a blessing for expectant mothers in May and October as part of the Respect Life Ministry.
- The next meeting will be September 17th.
- Father George closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Sudlik