

**Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**August 2, 2007**

**Attendees-**Mr. Michael Boughton, S.j., Joan Beal, Bob O'Brien, Joe Desimone, Sandy Litcher, Jean Leonard, Andy Litcher, James King, Jim Banks, Sr., Theresa Cornell, Tony Doman, Mary Senore, Leo Hurtubise, Mary Gordon

**Opening Prayer-**Joan Beal

**Welcome-** Fr. Michael and new members-Joe Desimone and James King

**Housekeeping-** Terms for new members (One 3 year term/one 2 year term) to be decided

**Minutes-** from June 7, 2007 meeting approved.

**Finance-** Bob O'Brien provided a recap of 2007 finances and a 4-5 year snapshot (handout) of St. Pius X Parish. A negative revenue trend was reflected because of (1) Attendance (those who use the offertory envelopes) is down (2) elimination of 1 Mass (3) no significant fundraising. St. Pius has been funding deficits with money from the savings account. The finance Committee along with Fr. Michael, Joan Beal and Mary Gordon will be meeting Monday at 7PM in the parish hall to work out the budget with the new school subsidy for St. Brigid's to be taken into account. Anyone wishing to attend may do so.

**Religious Education-** Sandy Litcher reported that St. Pius will be combining with St. Patrick's for religious education beginning in the fall. Classes will take place at St. Pius following the usual class schedule of St. Pius. Last year St. Patrick's had 27 students grade K-8 (10 of those in grade 2). St. Pius had 88 students K-8 ( of those where in grade 2). Registration for the 2007/2008 school year will take place at St. Patrick's on 8/25, 26. Sr. Janet will cover registration for that day as Sandy will be away. Registration will take place at St. Pius on 9/8& 9. Sandy will cover registration for that day. August 20<sup>th</sup> there is a catechist meeting at 7PM in St. Pius parish hall. Most catechists from St. Pius are returning to teach again this year. Two catechists from St. Patrick's are teaching as well. We still need catechists for grade 1 and 5 (rotating as needed) and a catechist for grade 6 (2 six week program). Classes begin the weekend of September 23.

**Stewardship-** Jean Leonard reported that St. Pius has not had a Ministry Fair for the last 3 years. The fair was discontinued because of lack of participation. According to the article on The Vocation Shortage, that Jean gave out with the June minutes, Catholics do not worry about their 'calling'. They leave it to the priests. We need to change this way of thinking. We need to address and appeal to the younger portion of our population. Jean would like to plan a ministry fair for the same weekend as religious education registration and the K of C breakfast at St. Pius-September 8/9. It would be beneficial to have the homily incorporate the sharing of time/talent/service/ministry for that weekend. Other ideas shared: sign-up sheets on the church bulletin board, Stewardship corner on bulletin board

**Disciples in Mission-**3 year Diocesan wide Lenten Process-combines leadership, faith sharing, liturgy, involvement of young people and more. Workshop to be held on Tuesday, August 7 at St. Joseph's College and again at St. Maximilian's in Scarborough on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Representatives attending one of these workshops from St. Pius are: Jean Leonard, Mary Gordon, and Annette Rioux. All are welcome to attend. Please contact Ruth Oakley at Chancery to register. Registration is free. There is a cost involved with the Disciples in Mission Kit and extra materials.

**Maintenance-** Andrew Litcher gave a handout with 'to-do' items and items completed. To-do included replacement of windows in parish hall and basement, ceiling tiles in preschool, light

diffusers in hall kitchen, installation of new deodorizers in hall and church bathrooms, etc...Recommended items: emergency battery for church, Two Led Emergency EXIT signs w/ back-up battery for hall, Sump hole and pump in hall basement, replace 24 plastic light lens in hall, gutters for hall, etc...This will appear in bulletin to help parishioners see where their offertory goes and to see what must be done to maintain our parish building and grounds.

**St. Brigid's School Subsidy-** is \$45,000 for St. Pius. This is not currently figured into the budget for this year. This information needs to be communicated to St. Pius parishioners. This communication needs to be done with sensitivity and care and as soon as possible. The \$150,000 loan taken out by St. Brigid's School is separate from school subsidy and in no way the responsibility of St. Pius X Parish unless the cluster school is not successful.

The cluster process is seldom smooth-usually painful. The council must lead the way for us to move forward with a strong spirit- working cooperatively with the other two churches. Back ground of the school cluster process/experience given by Theresa Cornell and James Banks for our new members and Fr. Michael. Discussion of how to build a bridge between St. Pius X and St. Brigid's School-(ideas) invite Fr. Peter to come and share the news about the new cluster school at all Masses one weekend, flyer about the positive things St. Brigid's has to offer, current news about the school on bulleting board in church and in parish bulletin.

**Fundraising-** Joan suggested that all members bring ideas for successful fundraising to our September pastoral council meeting. We will ask the same of our parishioner by communicating it in the bulletin and lector notes. Joan highlighted the issue of members missing meetings and read from the by-laws that members can be asked to leave by the council if absent from 3+ meetings. Joan reminded members of their commitment to St. Pius.

**Pastor Notes-** Sound philosophy for an interim pastor is to keep the ship afloat-no big changes; in this case that philosophy could exacerbate the current issues. Parishioners need to hear that we have a good parish. We must keep that at the forefront. There is a need for better communication before the permanent pastor arrives in January. Carefully scripted communication to the parishioners with the council being key in advising the pastor of what must be communicated and how best to do it. We must be sure the same messages to goes to both St. Pius and St. Patrick's.

Primary to any parish future is our young people. For Catholic adults everything we grew up with is either gone or is battered. We have an obligation and commitment to better our future. We have the opportunity to do that with our cluster school. One way to do this is to have continued dialog with Fr. Peter to get to know him better. Fr. Michael wishes to make his presence known at St. Brigid's.

In reference to the fact that there have been no fundraisers at St. Pius for years-shows lack of leadership. Fundraisers can create a sense of community and well as generate revenue.

**Closing Prayer-**Fr. Michael

**Next Meetings:** Thursday, September 6, October 4, November 1 and December 6.

Respectfully submitted by: Mary Gordon