

**St. John's Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2011**

Present: Fr. Pat Malone, Bob Austria, Rick Bellino, Linda Daly, Anne Lawlor, Sean Malloy, Elizabeth Samson, Andrew Smith, Bill Mullen, Richard Super

Guest: N/A

Absent/Excused: Kaye Bellino

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. Linda Daly led the group in an opening prayer.

Approval of minutes. The October minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report. Fr. Pat Malone shared a copy of his Pastor's Report. Elevator estimate is approximately \$500K. Fr. Pat proposes the parish share be \$100K through second collections at mass. As context, there are 25 second collections next year. For example, there are 9 through Archdiocese requests, 1 for Omaha Together One Community (OTOC), and 3 for St Vincent DePaul. Baptismal Preparation is a new focus area and Fr. Pat is looking for couples with children to assist with preparing new couples.

Old Business:

St. John's Elevator. Council members shared the discussions they had with parishioners after mass or outside of mass over past weekends. There is overwhelming support for the elevator to help families with children, elderly, and handicapped and to meet ADA regulations. Opposing viewpoints were the expense of the project and couldn't the parish use the money for other projects. Another concern expressed was that the estimate of \$500K might be too low. The discussion turned to building a financial plan that clearly lays out the funding and cost. Parish has a reserve for major building needs as a fallback position to ensure the parish does not incur major debt. Rick shared research from other parishes regarding creative collection options.

Sean motioned and it was approved to proceed with going to the university to obtain bids for the completion of the elevator process to understand the projected costs and timeline.

Rick motioned and it was approved that the parish would commit \$100K toward the elevator project in cooperation with the university.

The group discussed the building fund collection options such as having the second collection or including building fund envelopes in the tithe package. Richard suggested that we table the discussion one month to allow the Finance Committee to also discuss the options.

125th Anniversary Celebration. A group of people met on November 14 in Lower St John's to brainstorm activities and the schedule for anniversary activities. Ideas discussed were a dinner-dance, a photo exhibit, an "enhanced" parish picnic, guest speakers, inserts in the parish newsletter, service projects, and buying donor/memorial bricks for the elevator entry way area. The council discussed forming committees and getting these activities started. The next meeting will be 7:00 PM on 5 December in Lower St John's.

Student Soup Supper. The supper will take place on Sunday, February 12, 2012. Jane O'Brien and Anne Lawlor will co-chair the event.

Thanksgiving Dinner. Richard Super provided an update on the dinner. The event is on schedule with approximately 20 – 30 volunteers signed up and many food commitments received. Food has been ordered from Hy-Vee. Posters are going up around campus advertising the event in appropriate locations. The group discussed final details of the event to ensure all aspects are planned for. Event is 5:00 – 6:30 on 23 November in Lower St. John's.

Olan Mills Photo Directory. Linda exchanged contact information with the Olan Mills contact for the photo directory.

Archbishop Annual Appeal. The campaign runs through the end of November and the parish is at approximately 40% of its goal, established by the Archdiocese, as of the November council meeting. Overall the campaign is at approximately 75% of its goal.

Parish Council Day of Reflection. The group discussed possible dates for the council day of reflection. Fr. Pat proposed 7 or 21 January instead of 14 January. Fr. Pat will check dates with the facilitator to determine the optimal date.

New Business:

Altar Server Training. There has been a level of interest expressed to increase children involvement with the liturgy. The council needs to understand the role the children would serve in this duty. Fr. Pat will talk with the parish staff and the liturgy committee to discuss the next steps. The parish council supports increasing the involvement of children in the liturgy.

Meeting dates – Third Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

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| December 20 | January 17 |
| February 21 | March 20 |
| April 17 | May 15 |

There being no further business to come before the Pastoral Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. with a Thanksgiving closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Malloy