St. John’s Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2012

Present: Rick Bellino, Laraine Conway, Linda Daly, Julia Fleming, Sharon Hansen, Michele King, Anne Lawlor, Fr. Pat Malone, Bill Mullen, Elizabeth Samson

Absent: Sean Malloy, Andrew Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Linda Daly opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of minutes. The minutes from the May meeting were approved and will be posted on the website.

Welcome New Members: Linda welcomed the new members of the Council: Laraine Conway, Julia Fleming, Sharon Hansen and Michele King.

Pastor’s Report. The group reviewed Fr. Malone’s report. A question was raised about use of Lower St. John’s. Seems to be a catch 22 – if you open up the location to one group, do you need to open it up to all? Fr. Pat explained that the room is already booked most of the year by the Parish or University. Special groups may make a request to use the room for fundraising but must meet certain requirements in order to be approved. 5-7 fundraisers are held in LSJ per year, so not a large group.

Fr. Pat plans to meet soon with Fr. Lannon to find out Creighton University’s interest/commitment to the church elevator. Fr. Pat has learned from the Alumni Relations Office that this is a “low priority” for them, meaning they will not give much in the way of resources for mailings, coverage in the Creighton Magazine, or in helping to find other sources of funding. The group agreed we should look at ADA requirements to see if there could be grant money found through that. Fr. Pat hasn’t been able to find anyone willing to serve as Chair of either a Building Fund Committee or Elevator Committee. He may pursue this through the Finance Committee.

FYI – The Finance Committee members are: Richard Super, Mary Lee Brock, Gene Selk, Mark Feldhausen, Kathleen Denne, and Fr. Pat. Fr. Pat would like to recruit 3 new members to this committee.

Fr. Pat would like to begin inviting staff to attend Parish Council Meetings. The Council agreed this would be very helpful.

The group talked about Hospitality. How can we be more welcoming as a parish and how can we encourage greater involvement from the parish community? In the past, we have distributed “interest” cards at Masses for parishioners to complete. Fr. Pat said that those cards are distributed to all new parishioners. The Council talked about possibly distributing the cards to all in the parish so we can ascertain interest in greater participation at Masses and in social justice work. Fr. Pat cautioned that before we ask for greater involvement we need to be sure we have the structure to respond to the interest. This will be discussed further at a future Parish Council meeting.

Old Business:
125th Celebration: The reunion in June, Picnic in July and “Are We Ignatian Enough?” talk were all very well received and enjoyed. Kudos to all the volunteers who helped to make the events so successful, especially to Christine and Sean Malloy and Rosemarie and George Basque.
**August 23rd Campus Event:** Fr. Pat explained that this event is geared towards the campus community, which is why it’s being held at 3:00 p.m. It will be a prayer service, led by Fr. Tim Lannon, Fr. Pat and Linda Hayek. Volunteers are needed to arrive by 2:30 pm set up a canopy near the fountain. T-shirts, cards and copies of the watercolor will be available for sale.

**Pictorial Directory:** Photos will be taken September 11-15. Response has been very good and we hope to have most parishioners scheduled for photographs. If people are unable to schedule an appointment they can either submit a digital photo or make arrangements for an appointment with LifeTouch when they are at another Omaha parish. Hosts are needed to assist during the photography sessions.

**Altar Servers:** Discussion continued on children being altar servers at St. John’s. Fr. Pat asked the Council to think about what we value as we work towards implementation. A liaison may be needed to work between the Parish Office and the families of St. John’s in order to facilitate training. David Scholl will provide the training on a Sunday during Religious Education class time (Molly Davies is ok with this) and, once trained, Vivian Amu will place the kids on the schedule (8 am or 10:30 am Sunday Masses).

**Mass Time Changes:** Changes to Daily Mass times effective this week:
- 8 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday
- 9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday
- 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
- 8:30 p.m. Sunday night

The Parish Office will work to communicate these changes to the students since it appears they were not yet aware of the changes.

**New Business:**
**Officer Elections.** Officers for 2012-2013 will be:
- President - Sean Malloy
- Vice President – Bill Mullen
- Secretary – Anne Lawlor

**Are We Ignatian Enough?** The Council agreed to look at the comments from Mary Lee Brock and Fr. Pat’s talk to parishioners on July 26. We need to be responsive to the comments and suggestions made.

Fr. Pat raised the question of holding a council retreat in January. We did this in January 2012 and the group agreed that a half-day retreat in January 2013 would be beneficial to all. We will decide on a date soon (will take place on a Saturday morning).

Elizabeth announced that she will be unable to attend Council meetings until next semester due to a class conflict. Elizabeth will recruit one or two new student members for the Council. The Council thanked Elizabeth for her valuable insights and work on the council in the past year and hopes she will be able to come back to the meetings next semester.

Julia announced that there will be events coming up this Fall in connection with the 50th anniversary of Vatican II. Details will be announced as the date gets closer.

**Items for September meeting:**
- What is the mission of the council for the coming year?
- Review the notes from Mary Lee Brock’s and Fr. Pat’s presentation, “Are We Ignatian Enough”? How can we act on the input from the people who attended the talk?
- Student Thanksgiving Dinner Planning
- Dedication Prayer
- Covenant Prayer
There being no further business to come before the Pastoral Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Lawlor