

Minutes  
St. John's Pastoral Council Meeting  
November 11, 2008

Members Present: Bob Austria, Sean Joyce Whipp, Ben Lowndes, Connie Shonka, Jerry Stender, Richard Super, Jennifer Tilleman, Miriam Thorn, Lillian Rossiter  
Pastor's Representative: Kathleen Denne  
Parish Staff: Rita Sherman, Sr. Donna Marie McGargill

**I Opening Prayer**

Sean Joyce Whipp opened the meeting with a prayer

**II Approval Of Minutes**

- The meeting was conducted by Connie Shonka Vice President in the absence of the President.
- The minutes were approved with a revision of a date for the scheduled meetings.

**III Pastor's Report – Given By Kathleen Denne**

- The former Steering Committee met and discussed priorities for completion of the renovation project. Among the remaining projects discussed is the Donor Book, Ambo and Canter Stand, Ambry Votive Stand, Credence Table and the remaining stained glass for the port hole windows.  
The committee will meet again in December.
- Midwest Sound System has made some further adjustments to the sanctuary sound. Kathleen Denne asked the council members to give her feedback about the current efficacy of the system and report: where the sound is good or not, what liturgy they attended and where they were sitting. Comments should be emailed to Kathleen.
- Fr. Mahowald experienced a minor set back, and is now recovering nicely.
- Creighton University has requested that all departments decrease their budgets 10% for the remainder of the 2008-2009 fiscal year.
- There is no further update on the completion of the ambulatory screen in the sanctuary.
- Plans are being made for the annual Christmas Party held for parish volunteers. Invitations will be sent out.
- Fr. Bert Thelen will be leaving town for the next few weeks of his sabbatical.

**IV. Pine Ridge Parish Partners Report – Given by Jerry Stender**

- The annual Thanksgiving Trip with gifts of food and clothing to two parishes on the Pine Ridge Reservation is planned for the weekend of November 15 and 16.
- Large amounts of clothing have been donated and are being stored in warehouse space provided by King of Kings Lutheran Church. Clothing will be given to the distribution site at Sacred Heart Parish in Pine Ridge.
- Food has been purchased and will be boxed for distribution and provide Thanksgiving meals sufficient for 100 families who each have 10 to 12 family

members. Food to stock the Parish Pantry at Our Lady Of The Sioux Parish at Oglala will also be provided.

- A breakfast will be prepared by the St. John's parish representatives for Our Lady Of The Sioux parishioners and served after the 9:00 am mass. The Parish Partners are only representatives of St. John's Church and the recipients of these gifts at Pine Ridge understand that and appreciate the effort, generosity and support of St. John's Parish.

#### **V. Guest Report – Given by Sr. Donna Marie McGargill**

- Response to the online questionnaire regarding the 4:30 Sunday mass has been good and results are being tallied. Tony Ward will provide further information at a future meeting.
- Sr. Donna Marie suggested that the 4:30 Sunday mass be suspended during the Creighton Christmas break of December 21 to January 14, 2008. Reasons for suspending and Council discussion included:
  - Fewer persons to support these liturgies; Presiders, Ministers, Readers
  - Fewer persons attending while students are gone.
  - Inconsistencies in scheduling all Sunday masses.
  - Timely/effective communication of changes to the mass schedule is not possible at this time.
  - A policy change is needed for a change to be made in the mass schedule impacting students and parishioners. Such a change needs to be made before the beginning of an academic year.
- Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved to keep the 4:30 Mass during the 2008 Christmas break
- Further discussion followed the motion and included identifying ways to help Sr. Donna Marie find support for the liturgical functions needed during this time. Several council members offered to assist. Sr. Donna Marie will circulate an email allowing council members to indicate the dates and times they could help.

#### **VI. Hospitality Services Sub-Committee Report – Given by Lil Rossiter**

- The council was reminded that the Hospitality Services Sub-Committee has met and plans information sharing events for the weekends of December 6-7<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> in Lower St. John's after all masses on those weekends.
- A plan of action was presented to the council for organizing and communicating these information events. Council members indicated a willingness to assist with coordinating the events and facilitating the discussions. A calendar for facilitators and discussion questions will be developed.

#### **VII. Council Discussion**

- Some discussion was held regarding ways to identify council members at parish gatherings. It was agreed that this would be given further consideration after January 1.

#### **VIII. Meeting Adjourned**

**IX. Future Meetings:**

December 9, 2008

January 13, 2009

February 10, 2009

March 10, 2009

April 14, 2009

May 12, 2009

June 9, 2009

Respectfully submitted,  
Lillian Rossiter