



St. Francis de Sales/Blessed Sacrament
Parish Pastoral Council
December 06, 2011
Hanley Hall



Present: Bill St. Jean, Mary Cook, Dan Davidson, Nancy Freestone, Ed Kozlow and Jack Traynor

Regrets: Fr. Sebastian Amato, Fr. Aidan Dasaah, Rev. Mr. Brent McLaren, Shelley Costello, Rob Drapeau, Lorraine Fenn, Gina McWade, Lauralee Merkle and Shelley McLaren

1. Bill St. Jean called the meeting to order @ 6:38 PM.
2. Dan led the opening prayer.
3. Moved by Mary and seconded by Dan that the Agenda be accepted as provided. Carried.
4. Moved by Bill and seconded by Dan that the Minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2011 be approved as amended. There was a correction to a date in 6 (a) and a Note was added regarding deferral of the implementation in 12 (b). Carried.
5. Business Arising:
 - a) Parish Mission Statement:
 - Dan made a PowerPoint presentation of the status of the two finalists for the Parish Mission Statement. He then proposed a compromise.
 - After discussion, the statement below was adopted.
 - ACTION: The statement will be ratified at the next Parish council meeting.

Parish Mission Statement:

We, the Roman Catholic Community of St. Francis de Sales/Blessed Sacrament in the Archdiocese of Kingston, located in Smiths Falls and Lombardy, Ontario, united by the Holy Spirit, with lives rooted in the Gospel, joyfully proclaim the birth, death, resurrection and mission of Jesus Christ. We commit to live out our belief as a community of worship, faith and service to all, especially to those most in need, sharing the gifts and talents received from God, under the patronage of Mary, the Mother of God.

- b) Parish Census:
 - Bill taught a training session on aspects of Taking a Census. This included Planning, Evangelizing and Information Systems (IS, including computer software) perspectives.
 - Bill stated that there are a few fundamental questions to be answered before we begin to collect information:
 - i. What kind of census do we want? What is our vision of the census effort?
 - ii. What is the best way to get it?
 - iii. Who are our potential contributors?
 - iv. Do we want to locate and invite inactive and alienated Catholics?

- Decisions: After considerable open discussion it was agreed that our principal requirement was to conduct an updated registration of all our parishioners. Our parish records are significantly out of date and the envelope system has been our only method of estimating number of active parishioners & parishioner families. A simple registration form that collected the following essential data would serve our basic need: first & last name; address; names of family members; use of contribution envelopes. This form could be completed over the course of a weekend in late January or early February.
 - ACTION: Bill agreed to design such a registration form for further discussion at the next parish council meeting.
- c) Mini-Mission:
- There were a number of hiccups in communication.
 - The anticipated two one-night missions was presented as one two-night mission.
- d) Spaghetti Dinner:
- 40 to 50 businesses contributed.
 - 40 to 50 parishioners donated.
 - There were 35 to 40 volunteers.
 - Over 200 people were in the hall for the dinner.
 - We will be spending approximately \$8000 in charitable donations to the community.
 - In all respects, the Dinner was a success.
- e) Hanley Hall Roof Repair:
- A status report has been sent to the Finance Committee.
 - It was decided to accept the bid of Amherst Roofing and Sheet Metal of Kingston at a cost of \$ 67,504 + HST. The contract has been sent to Amherst for signing.
 - The approval of the Archdiocese for this project was received on Nov 24.
 - A letter has been sent to the Town of Smiths Falls to obtain both a building permit and to ask for an exemption to the policy regarding roofing projects.
 - The timing of the project is subject to the weather, the workload at Amherst, etc. Once begun, the job will take 6 to 8 days to complete.
6. School Councils:
- a) St. James: On behalf of Lorraine Fenn, Ed reported that:
- An Advent Prayer assembly is held every Monday in December in the gym.
 - Confessions for grade 3 students were held today. This afternoon was the school Mass.
 - December 7 and 14 are craft nights for registered students.
 - Christmas concerts will be held on December 15 and 16 at 1:00 pm in the gym.
 - Terrific Kids assembly will be on December 22 at 9:30 am. At 11:00 am, same day, St. John CHS band will perform for the school.
 - The "Wasteless Wednesdays" fundraiser raised over \$450.
- b) St. Francis: On behalf of Lorraine Fenn, Ed reported that:
- Student Council members are selling Smencils, which are scented pencils, instead of candy-grams, from December 1-21, or while supplies last.
 - The Scholastic Book Fair was held from November 30 – December 2.
 - There are 4 volleyball teams currently practicing and participating in tournaments. They are Junior and Senior Boys and Junior and Senior Girls.

- The Senior Boys Hockey team and Senior Girls Hockey team are both currently holding practices and participating in games and tournaments.
 - Grade 7 and 8 immunizations will be on December 8.
 - There will be a school Mass, together with St. Luke CHS, on December 9 at 10:00 am.
 - The orders for the MacMillan's Fundraiser will be available for pick-up on December 13 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.
 - The Sacrament of Reconciliation for students will be on December 16 in the Church in the morning.
 - The Giving Bowls/Spaghetti Dinner will be held in Hanley Hall on December 21 at 6:00 pm.
 - Terrific Kids assembly will be held on December 22 in the church at 10:30 am. The St. John CHS band will perform for the school in the gym at 1:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.
 - The last day of school for all schools will be December 23. Students will return on Monday, January 9th, 2012.
- c) St. Luke's: On behalf of Rob Drapeau, Ed reported that:
- The after school program runs 5 days a week until 4:50pm and is led by Mrs. Levac. This includes hockey at the new arena led by Mr. Millotte, all at no charge to students and families. Participation has been excellent.
 - On November 3 many of our high school students were treated to a tour of Algonquin College in Ottawa. This included a tour of their new, state of the art facility.
 - Julie Ingleby from the health unit has been partnering with our teachers to help students develop strong and healthy friendships.
 - "Truth For Rural Youth" is a wonderful online program that Leanne Eardley has been supporting us with.
 - Several students did us the honour of representing St. Luke CHS at the Cenotaph. In addition Sgt (Ret'd) Robert Stanley represented the Canadian Forces in speaking to our students on October 27th.
 - Sgt (Ret'd) Stanley is a Communications Technician who has a wealth of military and public speaking experience. His more than 24 years of military service have included tours in Iran/Iraq, Israel (Golan Heights) and Afghanistan. He did an excellent job speaking on the theme of remembrance and Canadian Forces history on the 27th.
 - On Nov 18 Mrs. Swann's class coordinated the Mass, beautifully celebrated by Father Aidan.
 - On Nov 22, Mr. Haime represented the school at the Catholic Education Coalition Meeting and on Nov 25 Mr. Haime and Mrs. English received instruction on behalf of the school regarding the changes to the Mass, led by Father Bill Burke.
 - Constable David Murphy continued his partnership with our school educating us on the perils of impaired driving.
 - On Nov 29, our Grade 10's participated in "Just Us Youth Day" with all grade 10's in our Board. Our Third Hand Clothing Group did us proud as featured presenters at this celebration.
 - On Dec. 9, we look forward to Advent Mass at 10am coordinated by St. Francis de Sales Catholic School.

- On Dec. 16 our entire school will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Students who have not received this Sacrament before will see a priest for a special blessing.
 - Mr. Derek Haime (our principal) has accepted the position of Superintendent with the Windsor Catholic School Board.
 - On behalf of St. Luke Catholic High School, thanks to the Parish Council for their prayers and unflagging support! Continued Advent blessings to you and yours!
- d) St. John's:
- Liam Merkley has resigned. He will attempt to find a replacement.
7. Committee Reports: No reports were available for this meeting.
8. CWL: Mary Cook reported that:
- The White Ribbon Against Pornography Campaign was a success.
 - A wreath was laid at the Remembrance Day Ceremony.
 - A retreat day was held at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Kingston.
 - The boxes for Operation Christmas Child have been sent.
 - Members helped with the Spaghetti Dinner.
 - A successful Bake sale was held.
 - Instead of making a Cookbook for the Provincial Convention, we are making a monetary donation.
 - Our November guest speaker was Nancy Stevens. A donation was made to her project: Kenya Help.
 - Our Christmas outing has been planned for December 11th.
 - Christmas donations were made.
9. Knights of Columbus: Dan Davidson reported that:
- The Knights have been busy with the usual fund-raising of Pancake breakfasts and suppers, which have been well attended.
 - We were involved in different aspects of the Parish Spaghetti Dinner fund-raiser.
 - Brother Ray Paquette led the team that built and manned the Keep Christ in Christmas themed float in the Santa Claus parade. Rideau Council thanks the Legion for awarding them the Best Religious Float again this year.
 - Preparations are under way for the Annual Free-throw Basketball Tournament to be held at St. Francis de Sales Catholic School.
 - The Knights will help St. Francis School with its annual Giving Bowl Spaghetti Supper in support of the local Food Bank.
 - Potluck and Carol Sing evening is coming shortly.
10. Finance and Property Committee: Bill reported that:
- Budgets are tracking well to the end of November. The parish hopes to reach 95% of budgeted revenue.
 - Other than the Roof Project (See Number 5(e)), there are no building projects scheduled until next summer and there have been no other new projects since May. It is hoped that the Roof project will be paid for without borrowing.
11. New Business:
- a) Christmas Food Hampers:
- We want to fully support this community effort.
 - ACTION: Bill will find out who leads this.
 - ACTION: Bill will find out if there are any needy families in the South Elmsley area (i.e. north of Portland in the Blessed Sacrament area).
- b) Father Aidan's Departure December 28 - 29:

- There will be a reception for Fr. Aidan after the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday December 18. Presentations to Fr. Aidan will be done during the Mass.
 - Bill will do a farewell to Fr. Aidan at the other Masses that weekend.
 - There will be a notice about the reception in the Bulletin for the weekends of both December 11 and December 18.
- c) Pastoral Council Membership:
- Present members are asked to declare their intentions for 2012 (stay on or not) at the next Pastoral Council meeting.
12. Pastor's Report: Not available.
13. Deacon's Report:
- a) Due to its length, Deacon Brent's Report is appended in the pages following.
14. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on January 24, 2012 at 6:30 PM.
15. Nancy volunteered to be the prayer leader for the next meeting.
16. Moved by Dan, seconded by Jack, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.
17. Dan read a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Kozlow

**Report to the Pastoral Council
St. Francis de Sales & Blessed Sacrament Parish
Smiths Falls Ontario**

December 6, 2011

I regret that I am unable to be with you this evening. Shelley and I are leading an Advent Reflection for the members and guests of the CWL in Perth. The event had been on our schedule for a long time.

There are two observations that I would like to bring to your attention: first, an unexpected benefit and second, a brief report from a workshop we attended.

An Unexpected Benefit

When we removed the pew frontals several things beneficially changed within the liturgy. One thing that I noticed, that we had not considered, was how the front of the church became more accessible to members of the congregation who use canes, walkers or require assistance walking during communion. It is much easier for them to navigate the space at the front of the church and to make the turns that the frontals had previously restricted.

This has, however, caused me to reflect on how inaccessible our sanctuary is especially for those with mobility issues. Our washrooms cannot be easily reached by anyone who is challenged by stairs. We often speak about an elevator for Hanley Hall but I have rarely heard anyone speak of the barriers that exist within our sanctuary.

Any discussion about modifications to the interior of the church proper would be prudent consider creating as barrier-free a building as possible.

On Good Soil

In late October several members from the congregation attended a workshop examining the CCCB document called "***On Good Soil: Pastoral Planning for Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults.***" This planning document challenges parishes to develop a plan for growth in the congregation. This plan includes short and long term goals, causing every aspect of the parish ministry to examine itself, focusing on development and best practices.

Since coming to St. Francis I have heard, many times, strategies for maintaining or doing with less. The workshop made the simple point ... unless you plan for growth you will not achieve your goals. To promote, educate, clarify, develop and encourage not only those who are in attendance but those who are separated from the community requires a commitment from all levels within the parish. Growth requires a commitment to growing.

In my opinion, Pastoral Council would be wise to examine this document and its implications locally.

May God continue to bless His ministry in our community.

(signed)

Deacon Brent McLaren
Pastoral Minister