

Staff Meeting Minutes
Holy Apostles Catholic Church
Colorado Springs, Colorado
February 20, 2008

Members present: Sam Gioia, Audrey Sujkowski, Mary Superata, Pat Van Horn, Mike McGrady, Mary Parsons, Fr. Paul Wicker, and Fr. Joe Damhorst

Absent: Deacon Mike Leverington, and Deacon Chuck Matzker

Maryanne Wright, recording

- I. The meeting was opened with a prayer and gospel readings for February 24, 2008. Fr. Paul reflected upon how people are thirsty for God. The culture of today is literally “chewing people up.” People are looking for answers and meaning outside of what the culture of today is offering.
- II. Review modifications of last week’s minutes: None.
- III. Preschool (School of Parental formation) – Mary Parsons.
 - A. Registration went very well. The 3-year class had less, but will probably fill later. Typically, people do not think about enrolling their children until later in the year. There was a short discussion regarding the selection of Holy Apostles as a preschool for their children instead of a public school. This discussion will continue at a later date.
 - B. Today’s busy agenda for the preschool includes the gym classes and a school photographer.
 - C. Mary has been talking to the parents about the coffee shop that is planned. Overwhelmingly, the parents were in favor of a coffee shop. Mary has asked that the parents write to the parish office and express their support. The storage space in the library closet has RE, preschool and MOPS equipment and supplies stored there. Some of the supplies may have to be relocated. This will be studied later. Sam has a draft letter prepared which details operating hours and other information about the proposed coffee shop ready. The staff will read this and offer their comments and modifications or approval.
- IV. Liturgical Ministries (School of Sacramental Life Celebrated) – Audrey. Next week Audrey will be participating in a mass at St. Mary’s. Many of the music ministers in the diocese will participate.
- V. Formation Ministries (School of Faith Encountered) –Mary Superata.
 - A. Mary’s staff is gearing up for the Intergenerational Day which will be held on March 1st.

- B. Tomorrow, Mary, along with other Directors of Religious Education, will attend the Deanery meeting with Fr. Paul. The subject will be evangelization.
 - C. The First Scrutiny will be this Sunday at the 9:30 mass. Mary, Audrey, and the clergy discussed the logistics of the liturgy. Mary will keep it simple so that preparation will be minimal and uncomplicated for the candidates and the faithful.
- VI. Youth Ministries (School of Vocational Exploration)-Mike McGrady.
- A. Mike is starting his lessons and discussions on purity and chastity. This is following last week's chastity rally. He is starting a pilot program for teens on the Theology of the Body. The initial group of teens includes five girls and five boys. The course will be a 12-week programs that will meet once a week, on Wednesdays from 7-9 pm. The curriculum is based upon the Christopher West programs.
 - B. Mike spoke about his trip to the Indian Reservation in South Dakota with Fr. Joe. Mike and Fr. Joe brought back some Indian calendars that were beautifully photographed with the subject of Indian children in traditional garb with a modern touch. Calendars were passed out to the staff. Mike was very taken with the living conditions on the reservation and moved by the spirit and culture of the Indians. Christianity and Indian Spirituality merged in a unique and meaningful way.
 - C. Mike will take the Vacation Bible School to the children of the tribe. Previous to that time, Mike's youth group will be in training. Mike is planning on 10-12 teens and 4 adults accompanying him in June. Mike is looking at community service projects such as building an awning for patios, cleaning. There are many projects that could be done to improve conditions on the reservation. Care must also be taken not to undermine the dignity of those that accept the help offered to them. Sam interjected some important information about the Apostles of Hope Coordinator. He has check with Risk Management for the diocese. Any work that has been authorized by the church will be covered for liability. Groups are discouraged from doing projects together, but work is covered. Other churches do help on the reservation with various projects.
 - D. Fr. Joe stated that some youth groups do come to the reservation to do projects. Most of the construction and building work is done by adult men. The priests in South Dakota will coordinate the projects that need to be done.
 - E. The dates for the mission trip are June 22-27. Sam suggested that the parish plan a "sending" celebration before the trip and that a celebration be planned when the group returns.
 - F. Rebecca Todd, the parishioner who committed to the FOCUS program for college students, will speak to the parish on May 17-18. Before those dates, on May 15th, Rebecca and her husband

will meet with Fr. Paul and the Youth Ministers in the Metro North Deanery. This meeting will create an awareness of the FOCUS college ministry among the Youth Ministers of the Region. Lunch will follow. Fr. Paul suggested that there is a need to set up criteria for how we will treat those that do mission work and to hopefully foster vocations for this type of work.

- G. We have been approached by an Eagle Scout who, to complete one of his projects, wants to set up a blood drive here at Holy Apostles. Mike has coordinated with Mimi, who will delay her blood drive until September. The Eagle Scout-organized drive will be June 1st.
 - H. The Girl Scouts will start to publicize their March 9th Scout Sunday in the March 1st bulletin.
- VII. Outreach Ministries (School of Pastoral Care and Justice) – Pat Van Horn.
- A. SHARE discussions are continuing. The idea of an ecumenical effort, to include other churches in the area, is continuing to be promoted. The spirit of the SHARE program is ecumenical at its core.
 - B. The Soup and Bread Meal, on Friday night before the Stations, will be prepared by Mary and Pat's ministries. There will be an item in the bulletin giving the time and place of the light Lenten dinner.
 - C. Preparation of the work to build a ramp for a parishioner is continuing.
- VIII. Ordained Ministries – Fr. Joe.
- A. Showed the staff several pictures documenting his mission trip to Belize. The church is named St. Benedict's and there is a school with the same name in the parish there.
 - B. Fr. Joe's Bible class has 15-18 people signed up. The class is scheduled on the same night as the Biblical Justice Program, and after Lent, attendance will probably increase.
 - C. Fr. Joe has asked that Pat provide him with the names of people who have asked for visits from a priest.
- IX. Pastoral Administration (School of Stewardship) – Sam Gioia.
- A. The Apostles of Hope Ministry meeting met with three people. Sam provided an outline of the program and all three people were enthusiastic about the purpose of the ministry. The other 24 people, who expressed interest in the program, were sent emails with an update from the meeting.
 - B. Sam met with Steve Bigari and his group from other churches. The working name of this group is "God Works." The next meeting is February 26th at 2:30 pm at Mr. Biggs. This group has analyzed economic indicators for the area without the religious elements. As a result, several programs have emerged. Each church has adopted a class/school to read with and with whom to do other

physical projects that need to be done. Sam will invite the Men's Ministries to help with these physical projects.

- C. The Coffee Shop Ministry is continuing to meet with the groups who will make this project a reality. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm on February 27th. Bill Mulcahy has developed a questionnaire with many pertinent questions about the operations of the Coffee Shop including hours, what kind of beverages to be served and what resources will be needed. Bill has asked Sam about the best way to disseminate this questionnaire. Maryanne will send a list of names and emails for the groups in each ministry.
- D. Sam is meeting with individuals from the Siena Institute on Thursday.
- E. There will be two Easter postcards mailed: one to parishioners and the other an invitation to Catholics who have not practiced their religion asking them to consider "coming home". A few ideas were considered for the second postcard including: "Want to come home?", "we will leave the light on...", and "See and Come..."
- F. The Easter bulletin will include events for the next few months.
- G. Sam now has the capability to edit text on the website.
- H. If the ministries will get material to be featured on the plasma screen to Sam on Monday, the material can be featured on the screen that following weekend.
 - 1. Administrative Items – Maryanne Wright
 - a. There are no baptisms scheduled during mass throughout the Lenten season. Two baptisms are scheduled after 12 pm mass on Palm Sunday. Several people have inquired about baptisms during the Easter Sunday masses. Fr. Paul said that it is fine to schedule baptisms at this time.
 - b. Bulletin Board Requests.
 - i. 2008 Senior Vitality Requests was approved for posting.
 - ii. Fr. Pat Hannon's prayer series at St. Mary's approved for posting.
 - iii. A travel agency has requested that a Lourdes tour be advertised. This was not approved.
 - iv. Facilities Use Requests.
 - v. Community of Women will have a table in the vestibule and will pass out a survey on women's needs in the parish. St. Joseph Day dinner tickets will be sold.
 - vi. Girls Scouts
 - c. Commentator Requests.
 - i. 40 Days 4 Life announced
 - ii. Women's Community in vestibule announced.
 - iii. Communal Penance service announced.

- d. Bulletin Inserts.
 - i. Two-sided Youth Insert advertising the Teen Lock-in approved
 - ii. Intergenerational Day handout with communal penance services in the region approved.
 - e. Second Collection. Maryanne has contacted the Indian priest, Fr. Raj, who will visit the parish. We have given him three possible dates to visit the parish. We have no response yet.
- X. Pastor's issues- Fr. Paul.
- A. Fr. Paul met with the Women's Group, and agrees there is real need for some type of women's ministry. There was a short discussion on how and when a new ministry will be added. One of the questions is how to align the ministry. One of the challenges that face a pastor is when to be present at the meetings to show support and encouragement. How to be present is one of the primary ways for the pastor to show support.
 - B. Fr. Paul met with Peggy Armstrong and Rich Cleveland to resolve some on-going scheduling issues with the Saturday Religious Education classes and the Men's Breakfast meetings. Occasionally, there will be a 15 minute overlap in the times for use of the Parish Hall. Several options were discussed including having the Men's Breakfast Group eat breakfast with the children, schedule the men's meeting later or on another date.
 - C. Fr. Paul has signed the church up as a member of Costco discount store.
 - D. Fr. Paul discussed the 40 Days 4 Life Program. A 40 day, 24 hours per day, vigil will be held to support pro-life issues. Fr. Paul will take the information to the Monday night Biblical Justice Group for action.
- XI. Meeting closed at 1155.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryanne Wright