

Staff Meeting Minutes  
Holy Apostles Catholic Church  
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
July 9, 2008

Members present: Fr. Paul Wicker, Pat Van Horn, Mary Superata, Fr. Kirk Slattery, Sam Gioia, Mary Parsons and Mike McGrady

Absent: Deacon Chuck Matzker, Deacon Mike Leverington, and Audrey Sujkowski

Maryanne Wright, recording

- I. The meeting was opened with a prayer and gospel readings for July 13, 2008. Reflections include: the seed that is sown in soil that is too shallow and among thorns. The seeds will sprout, but will die because the conditions are not conducive to healthy growth. Mary Superata compared this to catechists who sow the word and the means to receive the sacraments. Fr. Kirk pointed out that the seedlings need care and nourishment. Sometimes “conditions” have to be right for persons to either come back to the church or to become part of the Body in a meaningful way. Sam has been asked to follow-up on the presentation that he gave in the Loveland parish. The parish wants him to come back in January and see “what progress they have made.” Mike McGrady mentioned how the Youth mission trip was a life-changing event for many of the Youth. Mary Parsons, who is back from the Midwest, saw evidence of how people can pull together after the flooding in that part of the country.
- II. Review modifications of last week’s minutes: None.
- III. Preschool (School of Parental Formation) – Mary Parsons.
  - A. Leslie Versace has been hired to be the new Preschool Director. Mary is getting things ready for the fall school start.
- IV. Liturgical Ministries (School of Sacramental Life Celebrated)
  - A. August 15<sup>th</sup> is a holyday. Masses will be at 8 am and 7 pm.
  - B. Deacons are preaching this weekend.
- V. Formation Ministries (School of Faith Encountered) –Mary Superata.
  - A. Mary has the final version of the Christian Formation Handbook ready. She will start to print and assemble the booklet this week.
  - B. Mary has received the “Essentials for Christian Living” book , distributed by the Catholic Bishops. The book will be given to those who sign up for Religious Education.
  - C. Vacation Bible School has made some money above cost and the money will be used for scholarships for those who cannot pay the fees for Christian Formation.

- VI. Youth Ministries (School of Vocational Exploration)-Mike McGrady
  - A. During June, the Youth participated in a trip to the seminary and convent in Denver. The purpose of the trip was to foster vocations.
  - B. The youth also participated in a trip to Elitch Gardens in Denver where a mass was held.
  - C. The Youth were also trained during the VBS hosted by Holy Apostles for the mission trip to South Dakota. They were the facilitators for VBS on the Indian Reservation. Fifteen youth and four adults made the trip. Each evening, there were discussions on how the trip went and God was truly acting through them. The trip was an unqualified success. The trip next year is already being planned. The fundraisers for this event included a car wash and the stamp activity where cards were made. Mike is considering other fundraisers for other Youth activities.
  - D. Totus Tuus is going very well. The largest groups are the 6, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - E. Mike will attend a deacon's retreat next week.
  - F. The Young Adult activity, Spirit and Truth will meet at Holy Trinity for the remainder of the year.
  - G. The music for the parish festival was briefly discussed. More will follow.
- VII. Outreach Ministries (School of Pastoral Care and Justice) – Pat Van Horn.
  - A. Pat and the Prayer Shawl Ministry are working on blankets and shawls for so many of those in need.
  - B. Over 100 hats were sent with Fr. Joe to the mission in South Dakota. The handmade hacky sacks will be sent to Africa, South Dakota and Belize for the children.
  - C. The Ukraine Bake Sale this weekend will benefit the seminarians.
- IX. Ordained Ministries –
  - D. Fr. Kirk:
    - 1. Fr. Kirk has been observing the baptismal classes. There is some confusion because the video that is shown does not follow the ritual here at Holy Apostles. Fr. Paul suggested that a baptism here at Holy Apostles be videotaped and shown during the classes. Another suggestion is to do a “walk-through” of the ceremony.
    - 2. The scheduling of baptisms is being worked on.
  - E. Deacon Mike Leverington. No update this week.
- XI. Charismatic Ministries (School of called and Renewed)-Deacon Chuck Matzker. No Update this week.
- XII. Pastoral Administration (School of Stewardship) – Sam Gioia.
  - A. Father/Son Retreat is this weekend. Safe Environment Training is tonight.
  - B. More organization is needed to continue with festival planning. The format of future festivals was discussed.

The possibility of having a parish picnic was proposed. The reservation of a park would have to be considered. How senior citizens would come was also discussed. Many seniors who live in the area could not go great distances to get to a park. Transportation would have to be provided or an alternative location for mass would have to be considered. The possibility of having fireworks was also considered.

- C. There is a financial audit on August 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - D. The Guidebook final information is due by August 27<sup>th</sup> for the parish directory. The information that will come from the Welcome pamphlet will have to be updated to include the new ministries.
  - E. Year of St. Paul Planning: a regular meeting schedule was discussed. Staff will probably meet after the regular staff meeting. A discussion centered on how to “put a face” on what we are doing. Using an RCIA theme was a suggestion. Easter/Pentecost will be our commitment time. The deacons and the clergy will collaborate on the preparation of sermons. A timeline will be mapped out. Fr. Paul and Mary Superata will map out the time line and an initial agenda. Some ideas to consider: What are we doing, the content of the homilies and determine what Sundays will show “the Face of Christ in action”; the readings chosen must be appropriate and timely. These readings will be determined by the staff. Several books on St. Paul are being considered. Sam spoke of a book which tells how one parish implemented their plan: the setting was similar to our Small Catholic Communities. The Bishop’s Vision statement will figure prominently in planning. The Deans will develop a template for implementing the vision. Elements to be considered: Stewardship, Social Justice and Evangelization.
  - F. An ecumenical bulletin board will be set up in the Parish Hall to post other information, concerts and presentations from other churches and organizations that are not Catholic.
1. Administrative Items – Maryanne Wright
- a. In mass baptisms were covered for the next six weeks.
  - b. Bulletin Board Requests/Requests for the Table.
    - i. Bulletin Board: Aquinas and More goods ad.
    - ii. Table: Men’s Ministry selling Sky Sox tickets.
  - c. Facilities Usage Requests. None this week.
  - d. Commentator Requests.
    - i. Living Just Faith “Climate Changes”

- ii. St. Thomas Aquinas "Healing Hands Conference" registration.
    - e. Bulletin Inserts.
      - i. Parish festival recruiting.
  - B. Pastor's issues- Fr. Paul:
    - 1. The costing for marriages at Holy Apostles will be considered. Fr. Paul passes around a chart of what the other churches in the deanery are charging. The staff was asked to consider. Charges.
  - C. Meeting closed at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maryanne Wright