

St. Benedict Catholic Church

Parish Building Committee

Minutes

July 17, 2008

In attendance: Harriet Bauer, Doug Burrer, Butch Enderle, Joe Gustofson, Doug Ingalls, Pam Ingalls, Steve Klima, Jeff Klimek, Kye Lehr, Angelo Pinterpe, Mary Preston, Deacon Lynn Sherman, Greg Tencer.

Opening Prayer: Led by Deacon Lynn at 7:10 pm.

Minutes: A motion was made by Kye Lehr to approve the minutes of the March 27, April 17, May 29, June 12, June 19, 2008 meetings, seconded by Doug Ingalls. Motion approved.

Old Business: Greg Tencer and Butch Enderle brought the committee up to date on the status of the Sub Committees.

New Business: Greg Tencer stated that Deacon Lynn and Father Paul had met with Gary Barras, a parishioner of Holy Apostles and a member of the Diocese Building Commission, who had reviewed our Project Proposal Letter to get his input and suggestions prior to the letter being submitted to the Building Commission.

Deacon Lynn stated that Mr. Barras had been a long standing member of the Building Commission and therefore would have a good idea how our Project Proposal Letter would be received by the Commission. He stated that Mr. Barras had reviewed our write up and went over several points in great detail. Among those were the fact that we would be hard pressed to justify our plan to first build a Multi Purpose Building and later build a Church, rather than build a Church which would include, or could be expanded later to include, areas from the Multi Purpose building. He mentioned that the Santa Fe Springs Developer should have the utilities infrastructure (water, septic, electric, etc.) in prior to our building. That had brought Mr. Barras to another point which was that we as a Parish are not ready to do what we are planning to do because there is little evidence of a broad basis sense of ownership in the parish. Facts and figures show that approximately 45% of our Parish are either not contributing anything or are contributing very little through our offertory, which does not make us a viable Parish financially. He also pointed out that 20% of the members of our Parish “are doing it all” and we need to get the Parish involved.

Deacon Lynn discussed the fact that we need to look at our current reality as a Parish. We have property and a need for a church, but realistically we can't build

it yet. He and Father Paul continued their discussions after their meeting with Mr. Barras and agreed that we need to step back and take a look at where we, as a Parish, should go from here. Deacon Lynn stated that he is calling on the Parish leadership and head of the Ministries to take a look at why we don't have an ownership of St. Benedict Parish. He has reserved the Annex at Our Lady of the Pines for an Leadership/Ownership Seminar to be held September 11th. Butch Enderle suggested that we contact the person at the Diocese who teaches Stewardship and have them address the Parish.

Deacon Lynn then opened the meeting for discussion by the Committee and topics discussed included: Santa Fe Springs development and their completion of infrastructure; how the construction industry is affected during election years and how the industry picks up again the next year; whether we might have to consider that we might have to provide some infrastructure ourselves; the financial aspect of the Parish; our need to build within a 10 year limit and was that stipulation from the donation still in place; the reasons why we feel people are not engaging in the Parish; the reasons why people are frustrated and are considering, or actually are, leaving the Parish; how to change things for the better.

Discussions continued regarding what the focus should be for the Building Committee and it was decided that we should work on the Pastoral Plan along with the Strategic Plan while working towards building a viable and engaged Parish.

Steve Klima asked about what happened to the idea of putting the signs up to direct people to Mass. Deacon Lynn stated that we need volunteers to put the signs up on Thursdays and take them down Sundays after Mass. Joe Gustofson and Mary Preston talked about putting one of our 4' x 4' signs up at Curtis and Garrett Roads and that the property was owned by Pioneer. Joe will contact them to see if we can put a sign on their property.

Deacon Lynn said that this Building Committee should meet again to discuss the reality of engaging the Parish. The following meeting dates were set:

The next Building Committee meeting was set for Thursday, August 14, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Parish house. Building Committee members were asked to think about, and should be prepared to discuss, current issues of our Parish and what we want to accomplish as a Parish and then capture those ideas to use in the Leadership/Ownership Seminar in September.

An additional Building Committee meeting will be held September 4th at the Parish house at 7pm in preparation for the September 11th Leadership/Ownership Seminar to be held at Our Lady of the Pines.

Closing Prayer: Led by Deacon Lynn at 9:35 pm.