

MINUTES FROM 8/30/09 PPC MEETING

ATTENDANCE –

Present – Jennifer Kerr, Eileen Arthur, Alex Arros, Kristin Malavenda, Lorraine Rund, Allie Jeffs, Father Dan , Father Patrick, Father Tom, Lynn Johal, Zenephia Evans, Jacki Sorensen and Sean Sullivan

Absent – Keith Woeste, Jennifer Jacobi (substitute did attend), Tim Zaspal, Lori Muhlenkamp

Father Dan introduced Alex Arros as the new PPC member to replace Valerie Berouty.

Father Dan gave an update of the financial condition St. Tom's and where some of our financial commitments stand.

In general, our cash flow is good, we are meeting our obligations in terms of paying our bills, but we continue to show a deficit.

- Father Dan explained our commitment to the diocese regarding seminarians. We had a second collection and rose on \$2800 of the \$8000 needed.
- We touched on Fruitful Harvest and how the lack of support from the Diocese would create a \$500,000 shortfall.
- The Lafayette Urban Ministry fund drive carries a \$15k commitment over the next five years. We currently send \$6k/year to LUM via the Mother Theresa Fund.
- St. Tom's currently has 8 families participating in the LCS system, with approximately 16 kids attending. STA commitment is \$10k/year.
- Family Promise is showing some signs of needing financial and facility support. The organization is in need of 2 additional facilities during the 13-week rotation and STA has been approached regarding an additional week of facility use. Father Dan is lukewarm to the concept. They are also in need of additional financial assistance. The objective of additional funding would be the compensation of the Director of Family Promise.
- STA's priests (\$22k/year+COLA+Insurance+housing+ food) have elected to take a pay cut this year to assist the budget.
- Staff is managing their respective budgets well. PPC was, by and large, not in favor of cutting staff compensation. Tougher times create more demand for staff, greater workload etc.

- In broad strokes, STA is managing the expense side of the ledger well, the income side struggles.

Regarding Swine flu, STA has taken a sane approach to the issue...hand sanitizers; holy water is on the sidelines.

Candy Silver gave an update regarding Fruitful Harvest. STA obligation to the Diocese \$152k. Our goal was \$400k with a total of \$380k. To date \$ 186k has been collected (48%).

The annual fund is struggling. STA is running approximately 38% less than budgeted income and, relative to last year, the annual fund is running about 7% less than 2008.

Father Dan asked what PPC might recommend in terms of addressing the deficit. A more direct message from Father Dan to the STA community was mentioned, as well as a more transparent financial picture. It was mentioned, despite the quasi-mandate of the PPC, we have never had a report from the Finance Committee.

Candy mentioned the possibility of an overall Finance Committee, which would also work, on bequeathing.

Discussion of finances ensued. Mention was made of the students being 'fact based', they need to be shown what the needs of STA are. We discussed the possibility of punitive messages...if contributions are not made; these are the programs/staff positions, which will be eliminated. On the more positive side, we could explain the value of programs and the need for the dollars to run them.

Lynn Johal gave us an update on her many good works...

The community garden yielded 500 lbs of tomatoes, 150 dozen ears of corn and a variety of veggies. For the first year, it is an excellent example of addressing a basic need with good cooperation from parish members.

Lynn gave dates for upcoming programs (which have since passed). She also mentioned the idea of a program called 'Adopt A Gardener' as another vehicle to assist in raising food.

Lynn also mentioned promoting or prompting gardens in other parishes by showing and sharing our results.

Lynn asked for the continued participation of the parish in bringing in foodstuffs the first Sunday of the month for Food Banks, whose supplies are running low.

We set meetings for 10/4, 11/8, and 12/6.

Brother Nick said a closing prayer and our meeting was adjourned.