

## **St. Edwards Pastoral Council Minutes**

### **February 17, 2011**

X	Fr Kopacek	X	Milt Dakovich	Ex	Fred Freese
X	Regan McLaughlin	X	Brian Harrison	X	Jolene Kneeland
Ex	Jim Koch	X	Emily Nelson	X	Cristina Ortiz
X	Vicki Parsons	X	Jim Schaefer	X	Sean Schott
X	Dawn Smith	Ex	Marilyn Thornton	X	Mark Wall

#### **Call to Order**

Milt Dakovich called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mark Wall led the group in prayer. The roll was taken by Gladys Oppold. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as read.

#### **Guest Speaker: Dr. Patricia Connell – Sister Parish in Haiti**

Patricia Connell shared some of the early beginnings of establishing relationships with our sister parish of Grison-Garde in Haiti. The medical clinic serves up to 30,000 a year and was in dire need of materials and supplies with which to care for their patients. The church and school was crumbling, only a stipend was paid to the teachers, and the country lacked an economic basis for serving people. In the years since the early 90's our parish, through the work of the Social Concerns Committee and the donations of the parishioners, fixed the church as directed by St. Francis' motto "Rebuild my church". Doors, gates and railings were put in. Then attention was turned to the clinic. A doctor was secured, medications continued to be sent, and generators were obtained for electricity. Wells were drilled, holes in the school walls were repaired, and the adopt-a-student plan was put into place. For economical stability, grants were written, a pasta factory was opened and a chicken farm was started. A group from Canada outfitted the school with learning equipment. A woodworking school, a sewing school, and a baking school were all established. Patricia had several poster boards to pass, filled with pictures of the things about which she spoke. These improvements were done before the earthquake and before the outbreak of cholera. The decision to cancel this year's trip had to be made reluctantly by Patricia. She explained that it was not a time to be going to Haiti with the cholera and political issues so prevalent.

Despite the group not being able to make this year's trip, some good things are happening. The prescription payments have resumed. A water purification system is being installed. An anonymous donor, on several occasions has given sizeable donations to help with urgent projects. Cheap air fares were obtained by six Canadians in January. Each of the six took three suitcases filled with prescriptions, at no expense. Upon arrival they were met by a truck which took the eighteen suitcases and delivered them to Grison-Garde. A school cafeteria is almost completed. The next trip from our parish is scheduled for January 20, 2012. Patricia ended her presentation with the quote "If you see it in the eyes of one served, you know it is all worth the effort". Father Kopacek will share some of the presented information with the parish on the February 19/20 weekend and in future bulletins.

#### **Youth Report: Emily/Regan**

Regan reported that that after each Mass in the Metro area on Super Bowl weekend, youth were at the doors with pots and pans to collect donations for Souper Bowl Caring. \$4,320 was collected and presented to the Hospitality House. Emily reported that a Friendship Group has been formed comprised of Juniors and Seniors which will meet once a week. This group will be able to establish closer friendships and share common concerns and frustrations. The Snow Ball War and Sledding had to be cancelled because of the snow melting.

#### **Need Soup Supper Volunteers for Wed. March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Volunteer sign-up sheets were circulated asking for the provisions needed for the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Lenten Soup supper hosted by the Council. Upon review, it was noted that more soup is needed. Dawn, Brian, and Cristina offered to bring additional soup.

### **Review of the Pastoral Council's Area of the Strategic Plan**

Milt Dakovich led the Council through a review of each of the objectives of the Strategic Plan. Notations was made whether the objective was completed, ongoing, or needed further study.

### **Perpetual Adoration Volunteers:**

Jolene Kneeland volunteered to fill the March 13<sup>th</sup> Adoration Hour, which had been unassigned.

### **Volunteer Luncheon Update**

Vicki Parsons and Karol Hoth reported that approximately 155 were in attendance at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The Stewardship Committee and the Pastoral Council members had provided sufficient amount of food. Positive feedback was given by many of the attendees. Father Kopacek and Vicki Parsons addressed the volunteers thanking them for all they do for our parish.

### **Pastoral Council Elections**

Mark Wall reported that he has four of the eight candidates needed for the Pastoral Council elections in May. Three present members will run for their positions again and one additional person has consented to run. Two youth have consented to running for the Youth representative position. One person has expressed an interest in running for the CVCS position which Tim Kneeland is completing.

### **Other Business**

- Committee Reports
- Thank you note: to Laurie McLaughlin for heading the kitchen for the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.
- Congratulations:
  - to Gladys Oppold on her reception of the Bronze Pelican Award at the recent Annual Archdiocesan Boy Scout ceremony for her years of working with the scouts earning religious awards and her years of service on the Local and Archdiocesan Scouting Committees.
  - to Sean Schott for receiving the Catholic Alum of the Year award from St. Edward School. He was honored at an all school assembly during Catholic Schools' Week.
- Upcoming Events
  - The Lenten Soup Suppers will be March 23, March 30, April 6, and April 13.
  - The Agnus Dei Ministry is well underway. Their first performance was at Queen of Peace on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Their final performance is at St. Edward on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The full schedule is posted in the Church.
  - Trivia Night is March 4<sup>th</sup> at the KC Hall.
  - The Paschal Meal is April 20.

### **Pastors Comments**

No additional news on the Cedar Valley Campaign.

Ash Wednesday will be March 9.

Communal anointing of the sick will be at all Masses the weekend of April 2 & 3.

The Holy Week Chrism Mass will be at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Cedar Rapids on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm..

The Holy Saturday service will begin at 8:45 so that it is dark. Several adults will be entering the Church.

Masses on Easter will be at 7, 9, and 11:00. Father Simington will help with the overflow Masses again.

At future meetings Father will review a newly revised Priest Wellness Document. This will acquaint council members with a sense of what priests' tasks and involvements are, and how parishioners can assist them in their vocation.

**Closing Prayer:** 8:10 led by Milt Dakovich.

**Next Meeting:** April 28, 2011, at 7:00. Opening Prayer: Jolene Kneeland

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Summary of the Pastoral Council February 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting (for the Bulletin)

The monthly meeting of the Pastoral Council was held on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Dr. Patricia Connell was the guest speaker, reporting on our Sister Parish in Haiti. She shared some of the history in establishing a relationship with the Parish at Grison-Garde. Patricia deeply regretted having to make the decision to cancel the January trip to Haiti. With the political situation there and the rampant spread of cholera, it was not the time to make the trip. She shared how the people of St. Edward Parish have helped to put doors, steps and railings on the church. The school was fixed up, and donations make it possible for students to attend the school through the Adopt-A Student project. A woodworking school, a sewing school and a baking school have been established. A pasta factory and a chicken factory were opened. The earthquake and other situations have offered great challenge in the last two years but good things do continue to happen. The next trip is now planned for January 20, 2012. The Council expressed appreciation for Mrs. Connell's passion and commitment to the social concerns of our parish and particularly to the people and country of Haiti.

Committee reports were reviewed. Volunteers for the Council's monthly adoration hour were finalized. Provisions for the first Lenten Soup Supper on March 23<sup>rd</sup> were arranged. A positive oral review and evaluation was made of the January 30<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Approximately 155 were present. Congratulations were extended to Gladys Oppold on her reception of the Bronze Pelican Award at the recent Annual Archdiocesan Boy Scout ceremony for her years of working with scouts earning the religious awards and for her years of service on the Local and Archdiocesan Scouting Committees. Sean Schott was congratulated on his being named as the Catholic Alum of the Year from St. Edward School. He was honored at an all school assembly during Catholic Schools' Week.

Father Kopacek shared all the events surrounding Lent and Easter. At future council meetings, he will review a revised Priest Wellness Document. This will acquaint council members with a sense of what the priests' tasks are, what their tasks are, and how parishioners can assist them in their vocation..

The next meeting of the Council is April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.