

PORTLAND PENINSULA AND ISLAND PARISHES  
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 17, 2009

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Peter Gribbin  
Ken Giaquinto  
Mike Russo  
Dan Chuhta  
Paula Broydrick  
Mary Duffy  
Pat Wallace  
Peter Donnelly  
Chris Hoppin  
Pennie Kinney  
Vickey Saniuk  
Father Lou Phillips  
Father Richard Bertrand  
Father Kevin Martin  
Denis La freniere

**ABSENT**

Peter Lancia

**Introductions**

The next meeting of the council will be with Bishop Malone on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm in the rectory residence.

**Tour of Guild Hall Pastoral Center**

The Sacred Heart/St Dominic pastoral council representative suggested that the tour be deferred until the end of the meeting. The suggestion was accepted by the chairman and the tour was deferred until the end of the meeting.

**Progress of the Capital Campaign**

Father Lou gave a comprehensive report on the progress of the Capital Campaign to date for the Cathedral and St Christopher. The update was also included in the Cathedral's bulletin the following weekend. No action is necessary at this stage on the Capital Campaign for the remaining Churches. There will be a letter/brochure informing parishioners of the campaign. St Peter's is proposing to renovate the rose window. Robin Naley who is the best in the state will do the stained glass work. There has been discussion at St Louis to use \$25,000 of the \$100,000 goal to renovate the parish hall. It was suggested that the Chancery staff is a resource for preparation of literature. In St Louis's example it would be helpful to have an artist's rendition of how the future hall would look. Whenever the proposed project is physical renovations a picture or rendering is worth a thousand words. While it will take five years for the pledges to be collected, Fr Lou stated that it would be possible to borrow from savings to jumpstart the project. Fr Lou also would like to see an endowment established to bring in occasional Polish speaking priests for the holidays, and to preserve the Polish speaking ministry for future generations. Denis La Freniere has been working with finance committees on the capital campaign.

**Pastoral Visitation by Bishop Malone to Cluster 21 parishes**

According to Canon Law the Bishop has the responsibility to visit cluster 21 parishes even though he lives in the cluster. Bishop Malone's visitation schedule was reviewed in detail with representatives of each of the parishes.

## **Parish Updates & Activities**

St Peter's

St Peter's raised \$7,000 during the Christmas Fair. Parishioners really came out to support the fair. St Peter's Sacred Heart Sodality gives a food basket to needy families during the season; and makes tags for the giving tree.

Sacred Heart/St Dominic

On Tuesday mornings there is a food pantry available for the needy as well as a clothing bank in partnership with Good Cause Thrift Store. They also prepare a giving tree with gifts. The bad weather impacted negatively on the auction scheduled for the evening.

St Louis

Father Bernard Backiel has been invited to St Louis from 19 to 26 December to celebrate Advent and Christmas with parishioners as well as to celebrate a traditional Midnight Mass and sharing of oplatek in the parish hall following Mass. There have also been several community building activities such as the monthly Polish movie night for Polish speaking parishioners and a concert with Troy Mc Gillvroy. St Louis also hosted a cluster wide pro-life meeting including a representative from Catholic Charities and they are scheduled to meet monthly at Saint Louis. The Women's Society reported that they sold out luncheon food.

St Christopher

St Christopher is having a children's breakfast with Santa on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **Cluster Activity**

There was an energetic discussion about possible cluster wide events such as a dinner dance with the proceeds offsetting shared cluster expenses. Another proposal was a lobster bake at the ferry landing at Peak's Island or Camp Gregory. The feasibility of bingo as a cluster wide money raising idea was discussed; however, much more research needs to be done.

The Sacred Heart/St Dominic representatives wanted to know what the role of the coordinating committee is in implementing changes such as the closing of the parish office. Sacred Heart/St Dominic has the food pantry and the clothing bank requiring a need for coordination at the parish level. It is unique. The present parish secretary does not want to move to the new location. The coordinating committee is not like the old Pastoral Council where you could turn to the Pastor and say what you wanted done. It was stated that all financial and sacramental records are now under one roof and this is not a negotiable item. Father Lou reassured members that we are keeping the separate parish model. We are not moving towards a merged parish model.

One council member was frustrated as he thought the purpose of the council was to be more of a conduit of information than running bingo parlors.

A baby shower in all of the churches was suggested with a list of items needed. The newly energized pro-life group may be able to take responsibility for this initiative.

There was an energetic lengthy discussion of who we are as cluster pastoral council and where we want to go. A need for a mission statement was made. Fr Kevin stated that this is the third year we have been working on establishing a cluster and we are taking things to a new level. Father Richard wants expectations of how this committee will disseminate information. Fr Lou reassured council members that creating the cluster is a process, and said let's see how we evolve.

Ivan Druganovich (Medugore)

It was decided that two parishioners would be invited to the January meeting to give a presentation on inviting Ivan Druganovich to a cluster event and discuss the matter in detail.

Father Lou suggested that instead of saying a prayer at the beginning of the meeting that perhaps we could take turns reading from the Gospel in an effort to get to know each other better.

**Proposed meeting schedule-every third Tuesday of even months January 19, March 16, May 18, September 21, November 16**