

**ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR
OMAHA, NEBRASKA**

**PASTORAL COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes from April 28, 2009**

Pre-meeting prayer led by Andrew White

Attendees: Fr. Jim, Tom Jorgensen, Sherry Solsky, Dean Strehle, Pat Miller, Clarissa Suarez-Russell, Marvin Winkeler, Andrew White.

Excused Absentees: Gina Langel, Joan McDonough

Absentees: Matt Dickey, Sarah Franco

Item 1: Minutes of March 24, 2009 meeting approved as presented.

Item 2: Pastor's Report

*Fr. Jim presented the Proposed Budget for July 2009-June 2010

*Staff salaries are frozen

*5 staff changes will occur, 4 staff will leave and 1 will have hours cut

*Slight increases in tuition are:

\$25 for 5 day school; \$5 for RE; \$10 for 2 day/wk Preschool; \$15 for 3 day/wk Preschool

*St. Stephen the Martyr parish is doing reasonably well in light of difficult economic times

- Five Year Goals reviewed in discussion of the five elements of strategic planning

Item 3: Stewardship/Finance

*Tom Jorgensen presented these current statistics:

*Weekly pledges at \$53,447—an increase of 4% over last year.

*EFT numbers at 696 families—up from 683

*Archdiocesan campaign figures at \$128,173 or about 69% of goal.

*The Gonderinger Parish Center is paid for, including furnishings

- Two Phon-a-thons are upcoming. These are not to solicit money, but to update demographics, inquire how effectively our ministries are serving parishioners, and invite SSM families to the 20th Anniversary Celebration on June 14th.
- *Parish Festival information in future bulletins
- *Website is being used and constantly updated
- *Veritas Financial Ministry will offer two classes in the fall.

Item 4: 20th Anniversary Report

*Marvin Winkeler reported the following:

*Signatures and money are being collected for a full page ad in the Catholic Voice to appear Mid May in celebration and support of St. Stephen's 20th anniversary.

*Commemorative items will be sold in the gathering area in the next few weekends to include: Teddy bears, mugs, and lanyards.

A Golf outing will be held May 30th as part of our celebration

*On June 14th, the noon Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Curtiss, Bishop Dendinger, Fr. Gerry Gonderinger, Fr. Jim Tiegs, Fr. Chi Igboanusi, Fr. Andrew Sohm. The celebrants will then process around the parish campus at 1:00. The liturgical activities will be followed by a picnic on the grounds with barbecue lunch provided to parishioners.

Item 5: Ballot Counting

Volunteers and sign-up times for counting ballots after pastoral council and board of education elections verified.

Item 6: Council Officer Elections

Marvin Winkeler was elected President of the Pastoral Council and Sherry Solsky was elected Vice-President. Joan McDonough has voiced interest in serving as Secretary and is unopposed.

Item 7: Council/Pastor Dialog Re: Staff Changes

Fr. Jim responded to several questions re: staff changes brought about by economic constraints, recently. He provided the council with insights as to his decision making processes. A wider understanding of the issues related to salary freezes, budget cuts and staff position restructuring was gained.

Item 8: Agenda for next meeting

Discussion was held about orientation and welcome of new council members.

Item 9: Meeting adjourned. Closing prayer was led by Andrew White