

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

**PASTORAL COUNCIL
February 24, 2009/ GPC Board Room**

Pre-meeting prayer led by Pat Miller

Attendees: Sherry Solsky, Joan McDonough, Dean Strehle, Andrew White, and Pat Miller.

Absentees: Fr. Jim, Fr. Chi, Tom Jorgensen, Gina Langel, Matt Dickey, Clarissa Suarez Russell, Sarah Franco, and Marvin Winkeler.

Item 1: Minutes of January 27, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

Item 2: Dept. Head Presentation:

Mary Mcguire, a Liturgical Ecclesial Minister, is employed full time by St. Stephen the Martyr Parish as Director of Religious Education. Mary shared a very informative program with us, including the following:

R.E. Program Statistics:

1300 students [SS through 8]

150-200 pool of High School Students [about 60-80] attend each week]

250+ Weekly Volunteers: 220 catechists and coordinators and 30 Babysitters and 4-Hour Volunteers [reduced from 300 for financial reasons]

240 students received Confirmation

230 students First Communion and First Reconciliation [an additional 50-60 will receive in RCIC]

410 children attended Vacation Bible School

150 volunteers helped with Vacation Bible School

60 students in Individual Sacrament Preparations or RCIC

5,000 service hours each year by out 7th and 8th graders: in our parish, archdiocese and the community.

Also, Mary told us that the R.E. Programs began 20 years ago when our parish was formed. These programs currently work closely with Youth Ministry, Adult Education, the 5-day school and other parish programs. The R.E. Curriculum is the same for the 5-day school and R.E. after school programs. Tuition Assistance with R.E. Programs is an increasing need.

Item 4: Pastor's Report/Finance Report and Stewardship Report:

Tabled to the March 24 meeting due to Fr. Jim currently in the hospital and Tom Jorgensen currently facilitating the Veritas Financial Ministries.

Item 5: 20th Anniversary Committee

Directories have been handed out over the past 3 weekends. Calls will be made to families, pictured, who have not picked theirs up yet. Then, extra Directories will be available at the Gathering space fireplace this weekend.

Item 6: Parish Events:

Trivia Night was a huge success with hundreds of people attending this primarily social event. Much fun, creativity and enthusiasm marked the night. Plans are in the works for next year's event. The Chili Challenge Cook-Off to raise funds for Tuition Assistance will be held March 7. Call Judy or Cindy in SSM's office to volunteer to help.

Item 7: Nomination and Voting Procedures:

March—nominate for office of Pastoral Council President. Hold election, or hold at April meeting according to wishes of those present. Office effective/May

April—parish to elect 3 members/effective May. Council members should be actively seeking candidates who may submit their bio info. via a form available online at SSM's website or call the office.

May—elect Vice-President and Secretary.

Item 8: Agenda for Next Meeting/ Dept Head Visit

Some possible Dept. Heads suggested to speak at future council meetings are Dir. Of Liturgy or one of the Deacons.

Item 9: Meeting adjourned by Pres. Sherry Solsky and Closing Prayer by Pat Miller