

The meeting began with prayer.

Father Mitolo presented the **State of the Parish**: In the last 12 months, there were 12 weddings, 69 deaths, 41 Baptisms, the latter a hopeful sign. There are 65 students from BRC at Resurrection, 286 children in CCD who are taught on Sunday, Tuesday and now Wednesday. There are 25 members in the Youth Group. Father is grateful for all of our volunteers.

Bernice Dumitru gave a **Pastoral Associate update**: Visits to the 36 homebound; preparation of a funeral planning booklet for families; the opportunity for families to use our facilities for funeral luncheons with a team of 14 volunteers to set up and clean up; 10 volunteers prepare lunches once per month for the homeless; calendar sign-up to pray for the spiritual renewal of the church is available.

Debbie Brust as representative of the **Pastoral Council** introduced the new members: Maureen Dougherty, Carroll Miller, Harry Pokora and Paul Sampson who will be commissioned, and current members re-commissioned this Sunday at the 11:30 AM Mass. A reception follows – all parishioners are invited. Pastoral Council is a group of welcoming people who study, pray and plan for long-range goals on the spiritual life and growth of the parish. The Diocese has recently purchased a program with projections about census, logistics, etc. which will help the council with planning.

Father noted that 2 committees are mandated by Canon Law: **Pastoral Council** and **Finance Council**. Membership is a vocation; there is a 6-hour discerning program. Currently there are 12 Pastoral Council members; the goal is to expand the 4-member Finance Council to 3 or 4 more members. After prayerful consideration, decide if you wish to come forward for either committee.

Consolidating parishes relates to the shrinking number of people. *Envisioning Ministry* relates to the shrinking number of priests – how can we be as effective with less priests. To this end, the 5 “cluster” parishes in Brookline/Beechview are now sharing Baptism, Confirmation and RCIA programs. Preparing for when there may be even fewer priests, laity from the cluster parishes have been pulled together to create a larger Pastoral Council to continue to provide the same ministry, and reduce the workload.

In the absence of the finance chair, Father gave a brief **Financial Report** adding that the complete report will be in the bulletin in the next few weeks. Currently we see a slight decrease in income, an increase in utilities, and a projection of 12% increase in utilities. Plans are to have a more efficient individually-controlled (to some extent) radiator in each CCD room, with minimum heat level at 55 degrees. Also, we would like to create a chapel in the school for daily mass to help cut down utilities. The Marian chapel is too small for daily Mass. Weekend liturgies, funerals and weddings will still take place in the church. Dick Nagel added that a smaller space helps to bring people closer together. To Mary Lou Schad’s question about parking, Father said that people would have to use the upper parking lot.

Kevin McNulty offered a progress report on the **Church Renovation**. RSH Architects were hired to create a master plan of improvements while maintaining the historical significance. Specialty sub-contractors have been solicited for improvements to the mural, marble floor, lighting, etc., and to make the church where possible, more energy-efficient. A portion of the rug has been removed for viewing the marble at the top step leading into the altar server’s sacristy. The renovations are a long-term project with the intention of having some portion completed for the May celebration. Kevin added that they are welcoming the thoughts and concerns of the many church groups and staff. Drawings will be available next month. In answer to Dick Nagel’s inquiry about the sound system, Kevin pointed out that a new system would be too expensive; and he is talking with Ron Schulz about some particulars.

Kathy Tagmyer questioned the need for an architect now which costs more than having them come in later when some of the work is finished. Kevin responded, and Annette Ferrieri confirmed, that the scope of the entire project is important to avoid costly mistakes, protect the work that is done, and to continue in a way that is most efficient and effective. The fee for the architect will be phased out over the life of the project. Father added that he prefers to have the money in hand in order to complete each phase, the sanctuary being the first priority. Donna D'Abruzzo asked about the costs for each phase; the costs are still being assessed, Father responded. Samples of the work of RSH Architects can be seen at St. Winifred's and at Caritas Christi in Greensburg. Jack Cordeschi questioned the capital campaign figures and asked what plans we have for fundraising projects. Father noted that these things garner small amounts, and that pledging tends to be more effective. Tom Lagnese asked when the pledging season is starting, and that the \$600,000 is a very small figure. Father said it began last year, and that another mailing will be forwarded in the next few weeks. Kevin likened the renovation to the Cadillac we think of and the Chevy with which we may end up. Father further cautioned that there are a lot of inaccurate figures that people are attaching to projects.

When Bernie Vargo asked why we need a gathering space in the church entrance, Father responded that this space is for celebrating baptisms and funerals properly, as opposed to a gathering space for coffee and donuts. Paul Sampson asked if there would be a cry room. Father noted that we are interested in having children be part of the service, and as the need arises babies can be taken outside the church proper.

Mary Lou Shad inquired if the candles can all be in one area, and in a space where smoke won't dirty the walls. Acknowledging a concern that there has been a loss of candle money, a discussion evolved around ways to eliminate this concern. Katherine Gardner is hoping that the hole in the parking lot will be fixed soon, and this was affirmed.

Mary Diskin explained that there is another whole area that needs to be addressed; that of the spiritual celebration. Last week we invited the Sisters of Charity and the laity who served here, to a special Mass and reception. It was a wonderful day, but, very few people attended. It would be so nice if we could all get together and celebrate the reason why we are all here. Father added that Juanita's committee did a great job with the reception, and that Sunday, November 23, at the 6:30 PM Mass, we will host over 12 priests who have served at Resurrection; a reception will follow in Quinn Hall. *Please refer to the bulletin for other upcoming events.*

Mary Kuchta explained a successful fund-raising effort in Florida, where people used their gifts of baking, sewing, barbering, etc. Father said he will refer this idea to the committee.

Carol Lucas asked if we might have a Latin Mass as part of our 100th anniversary. Father believes that this is a step backward, but will refer it to the Committee.

Bernie Vargo alerted us to the **pilot lights** in the Garden Room which continue to go out for unknown reasons. We will look into this.

Sarah Wellinger invited us to fill out the **evaluation** and include anything you would like to see addressed at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:10 PM; a reception followed sponsored by the Pastoral Council. The next Town Hall Meeting will be Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 7 PM in Fr. Quinn Hall.

Respectfully,

Eileen Spear