

Minutes of the 9/13/07 meeting of the Joint Pastoral Council Meeting opened with prayer and roll call found Carl Orr and Deb Morovits excused and Pat Nolan, Steve Schwager, and Norma Lochner absent.

August minutes were moved by Keith Neisius and seconded by Joe Faust to be approved and they were unanimously.

September agenda was approved as written. The only concern voiced by parishioners was the inability to hear via the sound system at St. John's.

Father gave a thumb-nail sketch of the youth program so far; Mrs. Jo has acquired about 18 teens in leadership roles and had 30 young adults at their first meeting.

An update on the capital campaign found both parishes with close to or above the \$150,000 in pledges, the half-way mark to each parish's goal. Telephone calls are being made to those who failed to respond and some additional pledges have thereby been received.

In talking about the RCIA program, a floodgate of ideas seemed to open up and council members made the following suggestions:

- have parish website set up to help keep parishioners informed about things going on in the parishes and Prairie Catholic School
- suggested rotating of representatives from various parish councils and committees to attend each other's monthly meeting so as to be better aware of what is being discussed
- consider reducing tuition costs for pre-K and K in order to attract more people to send their child(ren) to Prairie Catholic School
- pastor was directed to write a letter in the name of the council to the city council objecting to being taxed for the proposed water system enhancement being considered.
- suggestion made to have a breakfast at each parish where parishioners could browse around various booths and receive a description of what various parish programs are all about.
- approved idea of setting up monthly town hall meetings to which interested parishioners could come and ask questions or get

clarifications about what is happening in the parishes. Interparish rather than separate meetings.

-recommended that homilies could be focused more on issues and situations that daily confront us all and what the Church's awareness might be regarding them.

Next meeting will be October 11.

Meeting concluded with a benediction.

*meeting concluded with a benediction*

**Joint Parish Pastoral  
Minutes**

**October 11, 2007**

**Present: Norma Lochner, Mike Steiner, Joe Faust, Keith Neisus, Mark Forsythe, Jim McGrath, Patrick Nolan, Debbie Morovits, Father Boschert**

**Absent: Mike Mezera, Steve Schwager, Pat Mercaitis, Carl Orr**

Meeting was called to order with a prayer, minutes were approved by Mike, and Mark, it was questioned why Holy Nicholson was not added to the voting at the time of the election and Father agreed to call and ask her to join the Council.

No additions to the October agenda.

Parishioners questioned about George Kahler and why he was no longer working as a janitor. Father said he was not staying within the hours that were scheduled for the job. George chose to leave. The other janitors will pick up extra hours to fill his position. It was also questioned about the Playground at St. Gabriel's and the issue of what happens when the snow has to be plowed. It was discussed that there would be a spot not landscaped and left opened for the snow, although there now seems to be landscaping there, and a concern about what will happen if that spot is indeed needed to pile snow on.

The parish youth program has currently around 30 kids, they are working on projects for possible fund raisers to help finance their group and activities as well as help some of the elderly with projects.

In the Spring of 2008 a decision towards the future of Prairie Catholic Schools will have to be made, a pros and con sheet was handed out and we are to look over this and make recommendations, and discuss what the council sees for the future. A charter school possibility may be away that we could progress. It was suggested that we look into this and bring those findings back to the next meeting. Also Bloomington stays above water financially and Patrick will try and find info on this.

Some discussion on a mausoleum at the Calvary Cemetery and whether or not there are parishioners that might be interested. They would have to have the money up front before anything would be started.

We would like to see town hall gatherings once again, the first of these would be on Nov. 11 in St. John's church hall at 2:00 pm. Parishioners from both parishes will be asked to attend.

It would be nice to have a coffee and rolls get together where we can explain various programs that are available in the parishes. Possible booths and volunteers for each program would be on display.

Meeting ended with a prayer.

Next meeting will be November 8~~th~~<sup>th</sup>, St. John's Hall 7:00

15+h

Debbie Morovits

**Minutes Joint Parish Pastoral Council  
November 15, 2007**

**Present: Patrick Nolan, Keith Neisius, Carl Orr, Pat Mercaitis, Mike Mezera, Mike Steiner, Joe Faust, Holly Nicholson, Debbie Morovits, Mark Forsythe, Father Boschert**  
**Excused: Norma Lochner**  
**Absent: Steve Schwager**

Meeting opened with a prayer, roll call was taken and minutes for the October meeting were approved by Keith with a second from Mike Steiner.

Agenda additions were organizational booths about our various committee/ministries at both churches.

Town hall meetings that were held seemed to have a fairly good turn out and Father felt that the people that were there had good questions and had a positive interest in what is happening in the church and school.

A productive and informational discussion on the Pros and Cons of merging the 2 schools was held with many view points. Some ideas are as follows: Try and promote more children to attend our school to raise the number in attendance. We could form a recruitment committee that would work on going into other school districts such as Wauzeka and Seneca. We could possibly work on a charter school. Enhance our daycare program so as to attract larger numbers which would stay in our school system. It is the opinion of this committee that we strive to work on these issues to keep from going into a Charter School where the religion would be done after school has ended and not the focus of our Catholic education. Other schools like St. Charles in Genoa, and St. Marys in Bloomington are not working with the numbers that we are and it's hard to show a comparison. Possibly a save the school fund or endowment fund could be started to help with making the tuition affordable.

It would be nice if all three councils could meet to go over all the information together and discuss the various view points on what should be our next approach toward this project.

A suggestion was made to hold an informational meeting during Catholic Schools week that people could visit, with booths, that were informative and would showcase various programs we offer in our church and school. We would invite anyone in the surrounding area to come and a representative from each committee would be on hand to respond to questions and promote their cause.

It was brought up once again about a web site that the minutes could be sent to and viewed following the committee meetings and any comments or concerns could be responded to. Patrick Nolan, and Mary Novey's son would be willing to see if this could be done.

The ecumenical service for Thanksgiving this year will be at the Faith Evangelical Church this year on Wednesday, November 21.

If the work on the new heating system at St. Gabriel's church is not completed by this weekend, services will be held at St. Johns.

There is still a question about the sound system in St. John's church. Some can hear and some can not.

The men of the churches would like to have a breakfast and proceeds would go to Prairie Catholic School.

Meeting adjourned with a prayer.

Next meeting December 13, St. John's Church Basement.

Debbie Morovits

	<p><b>PrairieCatholic.org</b></p> <p><b>St. Gabriel Archangel</b> 506 N. Beaumont Rd. Prairie du Chien, WI 53821</p>	<p><b>St. John Nepomuc</b> 710 S. Wacouta Ave. Prairie du Chien, WI 53821</p> 			
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## Current Parish Pastoral Council Notes

### MINUTES

DECEMBER 13, 2007

#### JOINT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

**Present:** Mark Forsythe, Mike Mezera, Jim McGrath, Steve Schwager, Mike Steiner, Pat Nolan, Holly Nicholson, Keith Neisus, Debbie Morovits, Father Boschert

**Excused:** Norma Lochner, Pat Mercaitis

**Absent:** Joe Faust, Carl Orr

Meeting was called to order with a prayer. Roll call was taken and minutes for the November meeting was approved by Keith with a second from Mark. Addition to the agenda: Sidewalk snow removal. Mike Steiner will lead the meeting.

Anyone have parishioners approach them: There seemed to be a problem with the snow removal at the school on the weekend, but Father feels there was a lack of communication and the person that was hired has been let go and hopefully this will not happen again.

The Diocesan Response to the Charter School question has not yet been answered because Father has not yet heard from them. This will need to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Father will contact the other committee members to help set up displays that explain their various Parish contributions. We have the 2 Men's groups, 2 Woman's groups, Family life, Home and School, Education, Day Care, Finance, and Pastoral. On Sunday, January 27, along with the Mass for the Opening of Catholic Schools week we will have a breakfast from 7:00 am. Till 11:00

am., and the Open House promoting the above mentioned groups. An advertisement in the paper or an insert section about Prairie Catholic School would be a nice promo for the celebration. Holly will ask Kathleen Schwartz to look into this.

Various questions were discussed about the Daycare adding to it's current program. It is one of our programs that currently makes money, issues such as more help and space available, what about lunch, are a concern. It's hopeful that after the new year this can be looked at more constructively.

The current Care and Share fund is almost depleted. It was once put in the bulletin and will once again be put in the bulletin, with hopes some people will come forward and add to this fund.

After much consideration and discussion this council feels the sooner we meet with the other two councils, the better, we will try to determine our next approach for Prairie Catholic Schools. Our next meeting in January will be with any of the other members that can come from Finance and Education.

Patrick explained where he is with the Web Site and has a draft of what could be put on the site. He will do a hard copy of the site and have Father look at the content for approval.

Next meeting will be with all 3 committees on January 10th, 6:30 St. John's Church Basement

Meeting adjourned.

Debbie Morovits