

ST.MARY'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 26, 2016

PRESENT: Monsignor: Gene Lindemann, Father Robert Shea, Deacon: Terry Glatt, Resources Manager: Steve Braus, Mike Wolf, Dick Heidt, Kurt Snyder, Shawn Morlock, John Grasl, Leo Voigt, Tony Fladeland, Tom&Carolyn Hesford
Finance Council members: Margaret Elkin and Brian VerDouw.
Tim McCaffery and Gerald Vetter from Light of Christ
Minutes from October meeting approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- A. Msgr. Gene introduced Tim McCaffery. Director of Mission Advancement for LOCCS. Mr. McCaffery reported on the Light of Christ Capital Campaign Plans. He discussed the past history in relation to land acquisition and the process of waiting for the land donation. He stated that now that the land acquisition is complete, many donors that have been waiting for the land deal settlement are now ready to make pledges. The Capital Campaign actually began about 2 months ago and now has about \$4 million in pledge dollars with more to come. They are now in the lead gift stage of the campaign and are working toward approximately 16 million dollars in pledges and once this goal has been met the Campaign will be opened to the community. The estimated timetable for this is mid to late summer, about 4 to 6 months. Once this goal is reached plans can begin to move ahead with the new High School as well as improvements to all of the existing facilities. Tim stated that one priority for this campaign is sustainability, to alleviate some stress on the parishes. Gerald Vetter informed the council members that our growth in the past 2 years has been about 20% with the main growth in elementary levels. He said the retention rate for Pre-K to K in the past was about 50 %, but last year it was 59% and they are looking for 85%. Gerald informed us that Right Sizing all the schools is an important component in the development plan. He stated the elementary schools are doing ok in this area, even though there is always need for more rooms. The Junior High needs all the rooms necessary to compete with other local schools. (ex - Band, art, library, etc.) He also said that the plans for the High School will meet current and future needs, but will be nothing too elaborate. Next, the council members asked questions. Tom Hesford asked if they have considered how to keep students from the south side of town since the school is so far north. Gerald said that they are looking into ways to get them to school. One is to bus them like they have been doing for the Junior High students. Msgr. Gene questioned what will happen if the Campaign stalls. Gerald stressed that addressing the immediate needs of each school would be a priority using the funds available. Tim added that other options to consider could be financing or bonding. He also said that when we get to the end of the pledge cycle, a new Capital Campaign may need to be looked at. Also, alumni that might donate look at the success of our Catholic Schools in academics, athletics and especially the strong dedication to Catholic Faith and Bismarck has all these. Gerald stated that goal for completion in a "perfect world" would be 2019. The needs of the elementary schools will coincide with the High School's plans. Margaret Elkin asked how they plan to meet the immediate space needs in the next 2 years. Gerald mentioned portable classrooms and combining sections temporarily if necessary as options, as well as moving the 6th grade to the Academy sooner than planned in 2017. Msgr. Gene stressed importance of the parishes being involved and informed as these choices are made. Both Tim and Gerald agreed and Tim stated that this meeting is just the beginning of the process. Msgr. Gene questioned plans for meeting needs for LaMere and the amount needed. Gerald stated that they have 4 different proposals for allocating funds for all the schools and LaMere. He said the current proposals will allow for 2 classrooms for each grade level in each school plus necessary remodeling costs. Dick Heidt brought up our concerns as Parish Council

members for our upcoming Parish needs. He reminded them that we postponed our own Capital Campaign while LOCCS was getting organized. Msgr. stated that our main concern is the Pizza Hut loans that will be due this next year. He questioned how we can meet our needs and not jeopardize LOCCS campaign. The discussion continued and Tom & Gerald did not have a workable suggestion. They also said that \$48 mil. is the maximum that we can expect to receive from the community. Tim suggested that the bishop and parishes should meet. Msgr. asked about the time line for meeting immediate needs. Gerald said immediate needs can begin being met this summer as money comes in. Steve asked how we will know what LOCCS plans to do. Tony wondered if there is a committee to decide on competing priorities. Gerald said the board is looking at each area based on priority of immediate need. Msgr. discussed considering removing buildings to accommodate a portable classroom as an option to meet St. Mary's need for more classrooms. Gerald said another option could be moving our 6th graders to the Academy sooner than planned. Msgr. posed a hypothetical question in regards to the Capital Campaign: If someone refuses to donate to LOCCC could we suggest they donate to the Parish remodeling project.. Tim questioned if it would be possible and suggested plans should be discussed with the bishop. Tim also stated that he would be willing to help with this approach. Gerald reminded us that progress has seemed so slow because everything hinged on land acquisition and we are now much further than we were last March. If plans are approved by the Bishop and board they could begin with remodeling as early as March. The conversation ended at this point and Tim and Gerald left.

- B. Pizza Hut remodel plans: Msgr. Gene decided that since the previous conversation took so long we will look at the Pizza Hut needs at the next meeting in February. He also said the bishop has seen the Architect's Concepts and likes them very much. The remodeling will cost about \$1.2 million.
- C. 16-17 Budget Preparation Process: Dick discussed the draft that was given to the Finance Council for preparing this years budget. He stated that they hope to have a good sensible budget by the April 26 meeting with only two months estimated and starting at 0%. Brian Ver Douw, who also represents St. Mary's on the LOCCS finance committee, said that he has stressed the importance of having actual numbers for their share of expenses relating to SMGS.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Staffing Parish Needs: This discussion was postponed until next meeting.
- B. Monthly Bulletin Financial Report Model Modifications: Dick explained that Model 2, showing the Parish Weekend Collections, will be used every month based on the 3 previous months published.

DECISION ITEMS:

- A. Appreciation Banquet Plans: Shawn stated that all was going well and Stephanie Fix also volunteered to assist in organizing.
- B. Msgr. Gene has all of the nominees for the Msgr. Feehan Faithful Servant Award and will make a decision by our next meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS: 5:30 p.m. - February 23, 2016 & March 29, 2016