

**The Church of St. Patrick Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting: May 27, 2008 – 7:15 P.M. – at the Pastoral Center**

**Present:** [Ex Officio] Rev. Arthur La Baff, Deacon Kevin Mastellon. **Religious Education Coordinator:** Elizabeth Bamann, **Finance Council Liaisons:** Tom Hanley; **Trustees:** Nancy Navarra. **Pastoral Council Members:** Mary Ann Bartelson, Al Maloney, Kyle Meehan, Amy Rathbun, Faye Rose and Mary Izzo. **Guest:** Kathy Mastellon. **Excused:** Sr. Mary William Argy, Deacon Bill Schmidt, Richard Gefell, Patrick Pearson, Brian Cisco, Pat Evans, Guy Forbes, Barbara O'Brien, and Gail Graham, **Absent:** Jim McClusky, Don Netto

Meeting was opened at 7:15 with a prayer (Psalm) lead by Father LaBaff. **Roll call** as recorded above.

**Minutes:** March 25, and April 22, 2008 Minutes reviewed. Motion by Al Maloney, seconded by Liz Bamann, to approve March 25 Minutes; and Motion by Al Maloney, seconded by Nancy Navarra, to approve April 22 Minutes as recorded.

**Comments from Parishioners: Home Schooling:** Liz said she had several questions & comments regarding "home schooling" for Religious Ed program. A book for specific grade level can be made available to parents interested. **Cemetery:** Good responses with reference to Cemetery. Three new men employed recently. Superintendent Ken has been busy placing fresh topsoil & seeding on new graves. **"Library":** Could we provide a small exchange library in Pastoral Center? Father said he has several good books which are used by RCIA program which would be available for loaning. Otherwise, anyone can refer to Library, including tapes and videos located at Watertown Regional Center, [former St. Anthony's Convent bldg.] 866 Arsenal St., Telephone No: 782-3620.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Worship Committee. Memorial Day Liturgy.** A good-sized crowd attended on a beautiful day and all went well. **Elizabeth Ministry/Visitation & Grant.** Kathy gave an "invitation" to attend special FEAST OF VISITATION service to be held on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, recognizing Motherhood and all "birthing" issues related thereto, including Mothers who have lost children. Respect Life Committee of diocese has generously provided a \$2,000. Grant to this Ministry. The Committee hopes to have a guest speaker, Jeannie Hannemann, originator of the Elizabeth Ministry, will present a program at a date to be determined. This Grant will help defray honorarium fees.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & FORMATION. IHC Report by Gail.** Gail responded to recent article in Watertown Daily Times regarding enrollment. Gail says enrollment still moving up; approx. 25% are military families and many are longtime Watertown families. Almost all of our students going on to Catholic High School.

**Religious Ed.:** Liz Bamann reported: Religious Ed programs over for this year. It was a good year for students. She is looking forward to new beginnings in the Fall. We may need at least two new faculty members for program in the Fall. Another Virtus Training session will be held Saturday, Sept. 13th. Father thanked Liz for planting at Church and at the Cemetery. Liz will keep a list of parents possibly interested in information re: home schooling in future.

**RCIA:** Father reported that Sr. Mary William is recovering well and is anxious to return to Ministry and will be at RCIA meeting on June 9th.

**CATHOLIC OUTREACH:** Kevin & Kathy gave a very interesting report on the Summit Conference which they attended in Orlando, Florida. They were enthusiastic and optimistic about future of Catholic Church. About 1200 representatives from organizations from every State and several countries. There is an obvious large shift to Spanish speaking parishioners. NYC has Masses in 56 languages currently. Major questions as to who is going to lead our parishes? The Summit addressed project goals [to provide solid research on emerging models of Parish Pastoral leadership]. Several organizations involved including National Association for Lay Ministry as one of the lead groups. Summit broke into several groups [Parish Life Coordinator, Best Practices, etc.]. Out of numerous recommendations brought forward, the participants voted for top ten choices. Some of the top choices: **Better training** for future leaders. There was a general feeling from all in attendance that we are not

preparing sufficiently for ministry. **Define Roles.** Parish Life Coordinator (or Pastoral Delegate in our Diocese) is appointed by the Bishop. To learn more about the Summit and see keynote speeches, see [www.emergingmodels.org](http://www.emergingmodels.org)

Years ago we began looking at the shortage of Priests in our Diocese. Twenty years ago Sr. Helen, a Dominican Nun, was hired by Fr. LaBaff as a Pastoral Delegate. Currently we have 65 Pastors (79 Priests serving). In five years it is expected we will have only 60 Pastors. We now have 500 Lay Ministers and 50 Deacons in our Diocese. We must be looking for candidates for Parish Life Coordinators.

A Committee was formed six months ago to look into some professional training for Pastoral Delegates/Parish Life Coordinators. The Committee includes Msgr. Aucoin, Sr. Shelia Moran, Sr. Jennifer Votraw, Msgr. Lee Poissant, Fr. LaBaff, and Kevin Mastellon. Age of retirement for Priests is 70, and at age 75 must submit resignation and Bishop can accept at any time.

**Parish Nurse Ministry:** About 30 people had blood pressure taken after Mass on first weekend scheduled. Barb O'Brien was very pleased with interest shown. A video on this Ministry is available.

**SOCIAL: Dinner for Two** scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> was postponed and is due to be rescheduled in the fall. **Marriage Brunch.** Will be held Sunday, June 8. Brunch is free but need names and numbers to prepare for brunch.

**OLD BUSINESS: Stewardship.** Responses from 125 (about 40%). Thirty-three non-envelope users asked for envelopes. Increase of \$1279. early on (17% increase), with some additional increases yet to be reported.

**Adjustment to Budget:** Budget reviewed with Finance Council and revised as needed.

**McCaffrey Bequest.** St. Patricks received about \$100,000. Of the \$100,000, \$40,000 had to be repaid for loan from Cemetery, leaving \$60,000 for St. Patrick's budget needs. Another separate bequest for \$1,000 to be received.

**NEW BUSINESS: Cemetery Staff.** All new men; doing a good job. **Building & Grounds. Roof & Tower.** No word from insurance company on claim. No estimate received from Felder or Bertrand's in Ogdensburg. Rick Gefell is trying to track down vendor for shingle company for roof and to check on possible warranty available. **Window covers.** Still waiting for a man to come and check on these. **Electrical.** One estimate received but not accepted. **Exhaust Fan.** Nothing to report yet on this. **Father La Baff. CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER LA BAFF** on 42 years of Priesthood May 28th.

**Elections:** Will name Nominating Committee at next meeting. Several terms to be filled. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Father LaBaff at 8:45 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: June 24, 2008** -- 7:15 P.M. at Pastoral Center. No Meetings July & August.

Respectfully submitted, Mary G. Izzo, Executive Secretary

“The Mission of the Church of St. Patrick, rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is to make God's love visible in our daily lives.”

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