

Cluster #25

Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2008

Norm Belanger called the Cluster #25 transition committee meeting to order at 7:00 pm at Most Holy Trinity Conference Room followed by an opening prayer. The following members were present: Msgr. Rene Mathieu, Fr. Coleman O'Toole, Fr. Greg Dube, Norm Belanger, Stephen St. Cyr, Paulette Millette, Jean Saunders, Anne Daly, Mark Sevigny, Paula Moses and secretary, Louise Beaulieu. Excused: Fr. James Brewer, Joe Goozie and Fr. Kent Ouellette.

Subcommittee reports:

Social Justice & Peace: Anne reported that SJ&P met on May 8. Paul will create a survey to see which topics would be of interest to parishioners for workshops that Sr. Mary Morey would organize for the fall. Blood Drive was held at St Philip on May 31. Members will volunteer at the Alfred spaghetti supper on June 12. The next meeting will be to discuss what events the committee will pursue next year.

Communications: Steve reported that the website homepage is created and should be available by July 1 at www.goodshepherdmaine.org Jim Duclos from St. Margaret is spearheading this effort. Now that the 3 tasks assigned to this committee are nearly completed, Steve suggest that we disband the communication committee and set up a new group with members from the old committee who are still interested in helping out along with representatives from the existing committees like pastoral council, parish life, etc.

Around July 1st, Msgr would like to take out a one quarter or one half page ad in the Courier and Journal Tribune announcing the uniting of the five churches into the Good Shepherd parish. The homily on June 28th weekend will highlight the merger. Holy Cards will be ordered for each parishioner. Outside banners for each worship site are being designed.

Faith Formation: Paulette attended the last meeting. Sue Dick is moving to Biddeford to be with the Faith Formation group and Sr. Angela has arrived. The group celebrated what they accomplished this year together and looks forward to working with Sr. Angela in the upcoming year.

Evangelization: Fr. Greg reported that the institute in Bar Harbor provided more information regarding the retreats that the Redemptorist Fathers have offered to do in Maine. The retreat is designed to encourage Evangelization and the Disciples in Mission program. We will need to decide where we should hold the retreat, a church and hall are needed. The mission will be held from Monday to Wednesday or Thursday in early November. We will need to involve Communications, Parish Life (hospitality) and Worship & Spirituality (music) committees. Evangelization subcommittee will meet first to get the process started.

Fr Greg and Sr Angela will attend a workshop on the Tools for Evangelization in a few weeks. Models and Norms for Pastoral and Finance Council should be arriving soon from the Diocese. The Chancery departments are restructuring themselves to help us with all of these changes.

Msgr commented on the Mother's Day survey that was done at all parishes in our cluster - all who attended Mass that weekend wrote their year of birth and the numbers were then applied to a spreadsheet. The information was divided according to the Cara study which separated age groups into pre-Vatican II, Vatican II, post-Vatican II generations, teens and children. More surveys should be taken but the numbers were very informative. It was suggested that a column be added to show percentages. Msgr will summarize for a bulletin insert. (report attached)

Parish Life: Mark reported that the group met on May 19. The group judged the Notre Dame & St. James Schools essay and art entries for a contest that both schools participated in to celebrate the formation of the Good Shepherd parish. On June 11, Parish Life will host an 8th grade breakfast for St. James and Notre Dame students. A Bake Sale will be held on July 12 at the Saco Farmer's Market to raise money for upcoming projects. Mark asked if Parish Life had a budget. Paula said \$1000 was earmarked this year and \$1500 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 – \$300 was spent on the ice cream social. Mark reported that MHT is planning a family day at Bay View convent in August. It may not be practical to invite the whole cluster for this event because of parking and Mark wanted to know if individual parishes should continue to plan their own events. Msgr encourages celebrating feast days like Notre Dame did for Our Lady of Lourdes 150th year celebration. A celebration for St Brendan is being planned in July to celebrate the completion of their renovations. Msgr sees nothing wrong with these events.

Buildings & Ground: Jean reported that B&G have not met and are awaiting direction from this committee. Norm presented a letter from the lawyers of General Dynamics that stated that there is a deed restriction on the North Street property. The deed restriction is that the land can only be used for municipal (fire dept) or industrial buildings. The letter states that they don't intend to remove the restriction. Norm said that he has seen many letters like this and it is pretty clear that General Dynamics will not change their minds. Paula talked to Dave Twomey at the diocese and he agreed. Therefore, the North Street land is no longer a viable site for a new church. All agreed that we should publicize this development to parishioners through the bulletin. After the last cluster meeting, Paula contacted the St Andre's Joint Finance members about tearing down the garage and renovating the tower. Msgr would like to have Jean bring the B&G recommendations to the Joint Finance Council which will be held on Tuesday, June 24. The following 2 items should also be on the Joint Finance council agenda:

1. Take down garage and rectory at St Andre's church to allow for more parking. Once approved by the Finance members, it will have to be approved by the Diocesan Finance and Presbyteral Councils in September.
2. St. Andre tower renovation – the Diocese needs to be contacted of this change in the original cluster plan. Paula also said that David will begin a dialogue with the owners of the elderly housing to consider more parking for St Andre Church during the weekend Masses.

Msgr would also like this committee to decide soon on a new Mass schedule for 2010 when we lose the 2 pastors from St Margaret & St Philip. Norm put together a Mass schedule in the first year of the cluster meetings that he will submit to the group at the next meeting as a starting point. Norm also suggested that a member of the joint finance council should attend St Philip & St Margaret finance council meetings so the cluster will be more knowledgeable regarding the finances of those two parishes and to make the transition smoother in 2010.

Norm said that we should review the B&G recommendations again at the next meeting and set up a timeline. Fr. O'Toole said that the Masses in OOB were cut down this summer from 5 to 3 – two at St Luke and one at St Margaret. St Luke needs a new roof – a decision must be made regarding selling the building or making repairs.

Next meeting, Monday, June 16 at 7:00 pm at Most Holy Trinity Conference Room. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm after closing prayer. Subsequent meetings were scheduled for July 7, July 28 and Aug. 18.

Minutes submitted by: Louise Beaulieu