

## **Cluster #25**

### **Meeting Minutes**

May 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, Fr. Kent Ouellette, Norm Belanger, Stephen St. Cyr, Joe Goozie, Jean Saunders, Anne Daly, Mark Sevigny, Paula Moses and secretary, Louise Beaulieu. Excused: Fr. James Brewer and Paulette Millette.

#### **Subcommittee reports:**

**Parish Life:** Mark reported that the next meeting will be on May 19. They will review the Notre Dame & St. James Schools coloring and essay contest on "What does Good Shepherd mean to me"? There is a June bake sale planned, a family beach day on August 23 and a St. Brendan day at the end of July. The ice cream social was well attended by about 150 cluster representatives and family members.

**Social Justice & Peace:** Anne reported SJ&P will be meeting next week.

**Communications:** No report. Anne asked why the Good Shepherd picture on the cover of the bulletin was changed this week. Steve said that LPI had copyright issues with the pictures we gave them. The picture on the cover is the one from LPI. The consensus was that more research is needed. Father O'Toole recommended a contest of local artists and Msgr mentioned that Father Paul Plante is an artist and might be willing to help us out with our own design so copyrights wouldn't be an issue.

**Evangelization:** Fr. Greg reported that the Reflection Day was held yesterday with 28 in attendance. Goals and comments are being compiled. Goals will be shared with cluster committees. Msgr reported that he talked to Bill Shultz who is willing to visit us in September to introduce the Evangelization tool that has been developed by his office at Chancery. Msgr will email us the tool when he receives it. Fr. Greg, Barbara Ann and Msgr attended the Evangelization Day in Bangor - it is interesting to hear how the other clusters are doing. The Diocese is looking into video conferencing these Evangelization days in Portland, Brewer and Caribou.

**Buildings & Ground:** Norm stated that we need to start making decisions on the recommendations we heard at the last meeting from the B&G committee.

1. St Andre tower – after some discussion, the consensus is to get permission from the Diocese to repair the St Andre tower as suggested by WJC engineers. Paula will contact the St Andre finance council members first and if they are in agreement, she will contact the Diocese. Paula said that St Andre has collected \$100,000 to fix the tower. When this news is announced to parishioners, the consensus is to explain that the current plan is to maintain St. Andre Church as a worship site which includes tearing down the rectory and garage for additional parking.
2. St Mary of the Assumption Church – after much discussion, the consensus is St Mary's church should be closed before the winter begins and to put the property up for sale. Most parishioners will understand that the next fuel season will be a real hardship to the budget. A committee of St Mary parishioners should be established to decide what we should save from the building and to plan for dealing with the loss to be experienced by the closure. The pews are in good shape, the altar is marble, the pulpit was donated by a family whose son, Michael Dineen, died in the submarine, Thresher. Fr. O'Toole suggested that the pulpit be moved to St Margaret Church which was originally a mission church of St Mary. The committee wants to find a way to memorialize St Mary's spirit into the other churches that will stay open. Volunteers at St Mary's should also be invited to help out at the other churches.

3. St Joseph Church stays open and St Joseph rectory will continue to be used by the clergy.
4. Notre Dame in Saco - Formal investigation of the cost of moving the Notre Dame Shrine and perpetual adoration chapel and finding a new home for the Esther residence should begin – possibly make the move of the shrine by 2009 and close the church by 2010. Notre Dame Rectory may be rented by Bay View Sisters in Jan 2009 for at least a one year lease. The City of Saco is still interested in purchasing the Notre Dame property for a new fire dept. Our Lady of Victory Hall is now up for sale – haddock suppers will be held in Camp Ellis again this summer to capture the summer crowd unless the hall sells quickly. A committee from MHT & Notre Dame needs to be established to plan the move of the Camp Ellis hall equipment to MHT hall. Another committee from Notre Dame should be set up to investigate the cost of moving the grotto, as well as what to save from Notre Dame church.
5. Expanding seating at MHT would mean a new look for the church. Mark explained that this may not be well received by some MHT parishioners. For some, the heart of MHT is the building as is – and therefore changing the space may be a problem. It was suggested that a new worship site for Saco should be considered. All agreed that a new worship site in Saco may be viable, but determining the cost of expanding the seating and moving the grotto and perpetual adoration chapel need to be determined first. Joe reported that the city of Saco will be doing a soil test on the North St property next week.

**Next meeting, Thursday, June 5 at 7:00 pm at Most Holy Trinity Conference Room.** Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm after closing prayer. Subsequent meetings were scheduled for June 16, July 7, July 28 and August 18.

Minutes submitted by: Louise Beaulieu