

Mission Statement: Our Lady of the Holy Souls Parish is a family of believers seeking to know, love and serve God as a faith community. To celebrate the presence of Christ among us, we will enhance the community atmosphere of our parish and develop stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.

***Minutes of the Meeting of the Pastoral Council of
Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic Church
Monday, March 1, 2010***

The Pastoral Council meeting was called to order and opened with prayer at 6:05p.m. by Doug Menz, Pastoral Council President. Members present were Monsignor J. Gaston Hebert, Carol Lantz, Sherry Nehus, Susanne Stabnick, Kim Gillum, Mary Bea Hiegel, Rose Nabholz, Sean Eichelmann, Robert Magri, Chris Gunderman, George O'Connor

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the January 12, 2010, meeting were approved.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance & Administration:

George O'Connor reported for the Finance Council and presented the income information as of February 28, 2010, which represents eight months of the fiscal year. Weekly collections were down 3% (\$3,000) for February. This is the second consecutive month that collections did not meet budgeted targets. When compared with the prior year, the Church is down \$10,000 in contributions for the eight month time period. Total expenses are 3% below budgeted levels due to diligence by the office staff to monitor expense levels. George also proposed three resolutions to the Parish Council members as follows:

Resolution: Parish Council President request approval of the Diocese of Little Rock for removal of the house on 1021 North Tyler not to exceed \$7,500 funded by Capital Campaign funds collected. Said request to be approved by Our Lady of the Holy Souls new priest prior to being submitted.

Resolution: Parish Council President request approval of the Diocese of Little Rock for a contract engaging an architect for the renovation of the Benedict House not to exceed \$35,000 funded by Capital Campaign funds collected. Said request to be approved by Our Lady of the Holy Souls new priest prior to being submitted.

Resolution: Parish Council President request approval of the Diocese of Little Rock for a contract covering waterproofing of the Parish Hall, amount not to exceed \$15,000, funded by operating maintenance budget. Said request to be approved by Our Lady of the Holy Souls new priest prior to being submitted.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to accept resolutions as proposed.

Capital Campaign:

George O'Connor reported that the Capital Campaign had accumulated net contributions of \$660,000 as of February 28, 2010.

Building and Grounds:

The three resolutions presented through the Finance and Administration served as the report for the Building and Grounds Committee.

Education and Formation Commission:

Sean reported that the Education and Formation Commission did not meet in February. He mentioned that the Pastoral Plan for this Commission is near completion and will be sent to the Stewardship Committee as soon as possible.

Liturgy Commission:

Kim Gillum reported for the Liturgy Commission. She said their Pastoral Plan is completed and ready for submission to the Stewardship Committee.

Parish Life Commission:

Carol Lantz reported for the Parish Life Commission. She said that they have been discussing various ways to "outreach" to new parishioners so that they feel more welcomed. One suggestion mentioned was during a social event(s) at Holy Souls to sit with the person/family that is new to the parish and try to get to know them more. A identification type name badge could also be a way of reaching out. All Parish Council members were in agreement that this is an excellent idea and should be implemented.

Social Concerns Commission:

Chris Gunderman reported for the Social Concerns Commission. Their Pastoral Plan is completed and will be submitted to the Stewardship Committee. The grant letters will be reviewed and discussed at the May Parish Council meeting.

Vocations Committee:

Sister Laura Cathcart reported for the Vocations Committee. She said that the committee members are in the process of implementing a guidebook for present and future committee members. The book will include details of the functions of the Vocations Committee as well as its mission, goals and guidelines. The booklet will be presented to our new priest for his approval and then taken to Monsignor Scott Friend for use through the Diocesan Vocations office. Sister Laura also passed around a prayer a prayer called "O Virgin Mary". It is the plan of the Vocations Committee to have this card readily available at church doors and various other strategic places.

BUSINESS:

Rose Nabholz recently attended the workshop at the Diocese for incoming Parish Council members. She mentioned that the class was very informative. Another one will be given in the fall of 2010.

PASTORAL COMMENTS:

Serving as Administrator for Holy Souls until a new priest is officially appointed, Monsignor Gaston Hebert was present. He complemented everyone for the way in which Monsignor Thomas' departure from Holy Souls was accepted. Monsignor Hebert suggested that 1) there should be greater devotion given to the Blessed Sacrament and 2) more emphasis placed on confessions.

The **next meeting** is Tuesday, April 6th, at 6:00 p.m. **(PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE FOR APRIL)**. The meeting concluded with the Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila and adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna de Noble
Recording Secretary