

July 12, 2006 Pastoral Council Meeting Agenda  
7:00 PM

OPENING PRAYER: 7:00 (Fr. Bill)

**Present: Lyle Garcia, Fr. Bill, Marilyn Wickel, Dana Wilson, Therese Shick, Mary Connolly, Ron Pojedinec, Jim DeVito, and Pam Stewart.**

**Absent: Bill Gerristead**

1. APPROVAL OF 6/12/06 MINUTES (Mary) **No changes.**
2. CALENDAR REVISIONS (Jim) Reschedule Fall Town Meeting from November 6 to November 13. **The Town Meeting has been rescheduled to November 13, 2006.**
3. FIVE YEAR PLAN UPDATE (Lyle) **There is no update at this time. Lyle did not receive any additional feedback from Ron or Bill. Ron will send comments gathered from his groups to Lyle. Lyle will contact Bill. The input will be included in the next issue (1.6) of the Five Year Plan. Lyle will get this newest version to Earl for the website.**
4. PROPOSED COMMUNICATION PLAN (Pam) **Pam and Jim met after out June meeting to discuss how to keep the parish informed of that the Pastoral Council is doing. Suggestions included: coffees after weekend Masses; more bulletin pieces; pulpit announcements; more utilization of the website; use radio and local newspapers. Pam has a contact with WDVR 91.9 FM, which broadcasts throughout our region. They could provide a free slot to discuss our role as a Pastoral Council and some of the activities at St. John Neumann. Pam felt that the use of radio and print media would reach a broader audience. Fr. Bill noted that often these types of activities create an “energy” within a community. This will be further discussed at upcoming meetings.**
5. FINANCE REVIEW: DISCUSSION ON BUDGET PROCESS DOR 2006-07 PARISH BUDGET (Lyle, Fr. Bill and the Finance Committee) **The Pastoral Council was joined by Jim Murray, Maureen Stout and David Gernick (I do not believe this is the correct spelling). The Budget Committee is an arm of the Finance Committee, and they meet the second Wednesday of every month to look at the monthly revenue results and attempt to resolve any concerns that arise. Not all members of the Finance Committee meet at that time. This group monitors and manages monthly results and creates an annual budget. The budget process is completed after the end of the fiscal year (June 30). A priority list is developed for this process, although much of the budget is non-discretionary. Investments such as low risk mutual funds are decided by members of Budget and Finance. Special ad-hoc committees are formed to respond to specific projects or needs (i.e., the sale of the Califon residence). The discussion arose about the desire for additional members for the Finance Committee, as well as the benefit of a Facilities Committee to review both long and short term physical plant needs. This would assist the Finance Committee in setting priorities for the Parish community. Fr. Bill also discussed incorporating and involving the two required Trustees more on the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee felt they needed to communicate with the Pastoral Council and would utilize periodic financial reports as well as Lyle as a liaison. The overall feeling was that the Parish was more stable covering day to day expenses but that an increase in funding, as well as more consistency throughout the year, was necessary to plan for any new goals.**

**6. NEW MASS SCHEDULE DISCUSSION (Fr. Bill) A proposed change in the weekend Mass schedule was discussed. It was noted that fewer people are attending weekend liturgy and 12:15 is typically the lowest; it is difficult to find Eucharistic Ministers at the 12:15 Mass; in the past the Diocese has asked parishes to combine Masses; fewer children are participating in the “Children’s Liturgy”; and Fr. Bill is often fatigued by 12:15 Mass. After discussion of these areas it was suggested that we consider no longer offering the 12:15 Mass. This will be proposed to the Parish for their input – Fr. Bill will include a piece in the bulletin for the weekend of July 29-30, and Marilyn will speak at the 12:15 Mass in early August and again in early Fall. If this decision becomes final it will not begin until Advent, as there are 12:15 Mass intentions through November.**

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**UPDATE ON DIOCESAN SYNOD (Marilyn) The Second Speak Up has been completed. After the First Speak Up six Commissions developed major themes based upon the input received. Questions were developed for the second session. That input will be drafted by the Commissions into propositions for delegates to vote on during the three day Synod in late October. The Bishop will decide which of the propositions actually go to Synod members for a vote. Marilyn noted that there were many diverse opinions, at each end of the spectrum, on a variety of topics.**

**DIOCESAN WORKSHOP FOR PC MEMBERS (Lyle) There is a presentation on Sunday, September 17 from 1:30 to 4:00 at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center in Piscataway entitled: “Growing Parish Communities for Mission”. Any Pastoral Council members who are interested need to submit their forms at the August meeting for the group discount. This will also be opened up to other parish leaders. Lyle will include a piece in the bulletin and Fr. Bill will inform the staff.**

**8. PC EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION (Jim) Jim provided a breakdown of the comments and discussions he was given from Pastoral Council members. This draft of “Member Effectiveness” will be discussed at the August meeting. We were asked to review it to make sure all of our input was captured.**

**9. CLOSING PRAYER (Fr. Bill)**

**Time: 9:45pm (as the thunder and rain approached!)**

**Minutes prepared by Mary Connolly on July 13, 2006 .**

**August Meeting**

**Workshop forms are due.**

**Marilyn will invite Rose Fay and others involved in Formation to our August meeting.**

**We need to discuss the timing for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.**

**Member effectiveness input.**

**Therese will do the minutes.**