

August 29, 2007 Pastoral Council Minutes  
7:00 PM

Present: Fr. Bill, Dana Wilson, Pam Stewart, Kevin Dean, John Cole, Phyllis Baker, Lyle Garcia, Mary Connolly, Marilyn Wickel, and Therese Shick

1. **OPENING PRAYER: Phyllis Baker 7:05 PM**
2. **COMMUNITY LIFE UPDATE : ( Therese/Phyllis)**  
**On Sunday Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 AM Mass some of the teens and adults from the Catholic Heart summer program will talk. Refreshments will be provided after Mass. The Sacristy Quilters will host a coffee after a Mass in October. The date for that is to be determined.**
3. **SOCIAL MINISTRY AND EVANGELIZATION PRESENTATION (Earl)**  
**Thank-you to Earl Roberts for providing the following summary of the efforts of the Social Ministry and Evangelization Ministries at St. John's, specifically in regards to the 5 Year Plan.**

**Earl reminded the members of the Pastoral Council of the importance of staying current on events by reading the bulletin and the web site. He also noted that we have begun to make use of mass e-mailing to inform and update parishioners.**

**Social Ministry:**

**Education and information are being provided on an on-going basis through the bulletin and the web site regarding Social Justice and what it means. There is on-going encouragement for lay coordinators for the various ministries. Recently, Ann Germino volunteered to coordinate the garden, and 150 pounds of food was donated by St. John's to Grow a Row.**

**Social Ministry at St. John's is driven by the needs of the community and parish. The programs are developed based on those needs. Hi Ho/Habitat and Malawi Jake are the most recent additions to the Social Ministry. The following programs are ongoing: Food Pantry, Cancer Research Fundraiser, St. Jude's Ranch card ministry, cold weather clothing, Underwear Drive, Seasonal Giving Trees, Nursing Home Picnic, SHIP, Blood Drives, and various other individual assistance depending on needs.**

**Earl related that he often receives letters and/or phone calls with thanks for the assistance we provide. Jake Wilson will soon provide witness to the Community at St. John's regarding his efforts in Malawi.**

**Evangelization:**

**Offering a direct invitation to many parishioners to join the team has proven to be difficult. Earl believes that lack of attendance at Mass, and reception of the Eucharist, precludes many from the spiritual basis needed in seeking those for evangelization or other ministries/programs. He feels that the lack of Mass attendance would need to be addressed before the Evangelization Team can really expand programs because many of the same people volunteer in numerous ministries and programs and they can get burned out.**

**Evangelization is currently about 70% finished with a new welcoming video that involves updating and re-sequencing photos. Once this is complete a video for the St. John's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be done.**

**The program, Inviting Catholics Home, will be offered after the new year. Earl feels that the most appropriate time to reach out to those that may only attend Mass on a very limited basis or be thinking about it, is during the Christmas season**

**The web site is featuring photos of new parishioners and recent Baptisms and other parish activities. Fr. Bill has suggested that the, yet to be formed Community Life Committee, might be an appropriate group to initiate and complete a parish directory. The Evangelization Team has been calling new parishioners to invite them to specific events at St. John's such as the parish picnic. The Contact/Visitation team for "at risk" parishioners has not yet been developed.**

4. REVIEW SOCIAL MINISTRY AND EVANGELIATION SECTIONS OF THE FIVE YEAR PLAN (All)

**This was provided by the above analysis with Earl.**

5. DISCUSS PARISH PARTICIPATION (Fr. Bill)

**Fr. Bill has begun his outreach to the High School teens at St. John's in his effort to begin an online blog. Out of 140 high school students registered at St. John's, 61 don't come to church. Of those 61, 40 of those families do not attend Mass. Encouragingly, 79 teens do come to Mass on a regular basis, usually with their families. So far Father has received 8 positive responses from high school students and 5 from college students regarding the blog. Fr. Bill will work with Earl to begin correspondence with these young adults who expressed an interest.**

**St. John's may be going back to the Parish Data System (PDS) as a means to keep track of various data in our parish. Fr. Bill should have more information at the September Pastoral Council meeting regarding this.**

6. DISCERNMENT FOR CO-CHAIR (All)

At the July meeting it was determined that a discernment process to reveal a Co-Chair for the Pastoral Council would be beneficial. Because Phyllis Baker came forward prior to this meeting to volunteer for the position, there was no longer a need for the discernment. We offer many thanks to Phyllis for accepting this role and to Kevin Dean for volunteering to Co-Chair with Phyllis for the 2008-2009 year.

7. PASTOR'S CORNER (Fr. Bill)

In his ongoing effort to keep the Council up to date on current events, Fr. Bill had several handouts including:

*Millennials: Searching for truth, meaning, and a sense of belonging*  
(from the July 19, 2007 issue of the Catholic Spirit).

Five different articles on the return of Latin to the Catholic Mass  
*The Face of God: What Benedict's "Jesus" Offers* by Peter Steinfeld  
An analysis of Developing a Parish Plan for Automated Giving

Fr. Bill reported that the Maintenance Committee is doing well. A decision was made by the committee to seal the parking lot this year. The cost will be \$10,000 and will be financed by a 2006 Christmas contribution.

The Stewardship/Finance Committee is currently looking into the prospect of bringing automated donating to the St. John's community.

The stones for the Labyrinth will be delivered in the beginning of September with construction to begin shortly thereafter. Wooden "coins" will be handed out for the participants after walking the Labyrinth.

A new logo has been developed for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. This logo will appear on magnets and possibly t-shirts made for the occasion.

8. OTHER (Pam)

Pam Stewart gave an update regarding a planned radio program. The program will be on the Seargantsville station 89.7 WDVR on a date in September or October. The topic will be the Catholic Heart program and the participants will be Mary Connolly, possibly Fr. Bill, and a number of teens who attended the week this summer. Pam will interview the participants prior to the program and will provide the teens with a CD of the program afterwards.

9. SATURDAY, SEPT. 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING TOPICS (8:30 AM)  
**Town Meeting Prep**  
**Pastoral Council Formation**  
**Review Leadership section of the Five Year Plan**  
**Parish Participation and Attendance at Masses**

10. CLOSING PRAYER (Phyllis) 9:10 PM

Minutes prepared on 8/31/07 by Therese Shick