

February 17, 2007 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
8:30 am

OPENING PRAYER: Marilyn

Present: Marilyn Wickel, Dana Wilson, Jim DeVito, Mary Connolly, Lyle Garcia, , Pam Stewart and Fr. Bill.

Absent: Ron Pojedinec, Therese Shick, Bill Gerristead

1. AGENDA OVERVIEW (Jim) **There is just a slight reordering of the original agenda.**
2. PASTORAL COUNCIL FORMATION (Fr. Bill) **The Pastoral Council engaged in a discussion based upon the readings *The Parish: A People, A Mission, A Structure and Journey to the Center*. We will continue our discussion at future Saturday meetings. Please continue to bring these resources.**
3. UPDATE ON PC MEMBER RECRUITMENT (Jim) **To date we have had bulletin announcements and have updated the web site with information about becoming a member. Please forward your "What Pastoral Council Membership Means to Me" paragraphs to Jim and Fr. Bill ASAP. These will be used at our coffee on Sunday, February 25.**
4. EVANGELIZATION AREA OF PARISH LIFE (Pam Dean and Earl Roberts) **The Evangelization team currently has 5 members and would ideally like one more person to join them. The group currently reaches out to new people in the surrounding communities and provides them with a directory of all area churches. It was noted that current members of the parish are the best recruiters of new parishioners. Discovery Sunday was discussed and the feedback that is received from those who attend is positive. However, it was noted that some are reluctant to participate. The video shown at Discovery Sunday will be updated. The program, Inviting Catholics Home, was reviewed by the team and they are very interested in using the 6 week program. To date there has been no response. It covers a variety of elements as to why someone may have left the church and more current aspects of Catholicism. It is led by lay ministers and is not specific to St. John's. This spring they will be offering a one evening program, Compassionate Caring, to help others communicate with the elderly and people who are ill. Scripture verses and prayers are included in the food distribution baskets. Photos of new parishioners have been started. They are still researching the options of a parish directory. The use of mass e-mailings for church events has been utilized. There is a need to continue contact after families have their children Baptized. The speaker this year for the Lenten Soup Supper is Sr. Sheila from Great Expectations. There was some discussion as to why this event has not been more successful in recent years.**
5. INITIATIVE ON PARISH YOUTH (Mary, Bill Therese, All) **There was limited information for this meeting from other parishes. About a dozen parishes were contacted about their programs and 3 responded. A manual from the Diocese of Arlington (Virginia) is available on-line. More follow up is needed. The suggestion was posed that we work off of the summer program already in place to begin to develop our Youth Ministry. This will be an area of further discussion at our March meeting.**
6. DIOCESAN SYNOD UPDATE (Fr. Bill and Marilyn) **An article was shared with the PC members from *The Catholic Spirit* on the areas chosen from the Synod. An implementation council is being started but most areas are at a fundamental stage. There is concern about the follow through of the initiatives.**

7. PC SPONSORED PARISH COFFEE This will take place Sunday, February 25 at the 10:30 Mass.

8. PASTOR'S CORNER (Fr. Bill) Fr. Bill shared a chart of the Finance Council and the Pastoral Council which included notations from Canon Law and the various areas of responsibility. An article entitled, *The Good Friday Communion Debate*, was shared with the PC as an example of the process of development over time. It exemplifies the value of dialogue between differing points of view, an understanding that change does not happen over night, and the sense of hope one can have when you look back over the process. The Community Life Committee has had one interested response. The topic of communication was brought up and the need to place some of the responsibility on others to seek out the information that is provided for themselves.

9. MARCH MEETING TOPICS (Jim/Mary)

PC Recruitment: we need to discuss individuals we may want to approach to encourage further discernment.

Youth Ministry: continue the discussion

Review the coffee: suggestions for other groups to continue the event

Major Topics: May 14 Town Meeting- be thinking of ideas and formats

Review of the fund raising area of Stewardship

CLOSING PRAYER: Marilyn

Time: 12:30pm

The minutes were prepared by Mary Connolly on 2/21/07.