

January 10, 2007 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
7:00 pm

OPENING PRAYER: Therese

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

Absent: Pam Stewart

1. APPROVAL OF 12/6/06 MINUTES (Mary) **In the future this will not be an agenda item. All members are asked to acknowledge receipt of the minutes and provide any amendments in a timely manner. It was noted that final copies are also provided to the church staff.**

2. LEADERSHIP DISCUSSION FOLLOW-UP (Dana/Jim) **The strategies of the “Leadership” section of the Five Year Plan (p. 10) was discussed. Many of the areas have already been addressed and will be on-going including: 1.A. “Identify and encourage new Pastoral Council members”; 1.C. “Encourage individual members to attend workshops, seminars, etc. on effective Pastoral Councils and bring back information to the Council as a whole”; 2.A. “Communicate to parishioners the potential impact of the shortage of priests on the SJN Community”; 2.B. “Evaluate the changing roles of the pastor, diaconate, and laity”. It was hoped that some direction may also come from the Diocesan Synod in this area. For strategy 1.B “Follow-up on Stewardship questionnaire for future leaders showing interest in selected Ministries” there was discussion that the response this year has been limited. The idea was presented to have Stewardship Sunday earlier in November next year. There will need to be reminders, possibly through an e-mail, for parishioners to return their forms. Lyle will follow through on any final editing that may be needed to the volunteer list to avoid duplication. In area 2.C. “Recruit and support candidates for the diaconate” it was noted that Earl Roberts has been accepted into the program for our diocese. The Pastoral Council will need to have further discussions on 2.D “Recognize parish leaders”.**

3. COVENANT REVIEW AND REVISION (Jim) **A sub-committee met since our last meeting and reviewed/revised the document. It was agreed to delete a section on p.3 and to change the number of Pastoral Council members from 9 to 10 to more clearly reflect that Fr. Bill is a standing member. All other minor changes were accepted. Jim will complete the corrections and e-mail them to Mary. She will pass them on to Earl Roberts for posting on the web site.**

4. INITIATIVE ON PARISH YOUTH (Jim) **There was a lengthy discussion about the complexities of this area of ministry. It was acknowledged that there are service opportunities but no formal program. Fr. Bill indicated that he will speak to people who have been involved in Youth Ministry at St. John’s in the past. Several PC members volunteered to contact area churches that have programs to gain insight and possible suggestions (Mary, Therese, and Bill). An initiative from the current Synod may look at youth ministers at the deanery level. However, it was noted that in Hunterdon County the distance between parishes could be significant (from Califon to Lambertville). It was clear that this issue needs continued reflection. There is a Diocesan Youth day being planned.**

5. PARISH COFFEE PROPOSAL (Therese) **The first social coffee will be sponsored by the Pastoral Council and will be at the 10:30 mass on Sunday, February 25. Therese will send in an announcement for the bulletin. She will be in touch with PC members as to what they will provide for the coffee.**

6. **PC MEMBER RECRUITMENT PROPOSAL (Jim)** Jim provided a tentative schedule of activities for the process of recruiting the 3 new Pastoral Council members that will be inducted at the 10:30 mass on Pentecost Sunday, which is May 27. Information will be provided in the bulletin and on the web site about the process, the qualities of a PC member, and ways to get more information from current PC members. Each current member is asked to write a paragraph by mid February on “What Pastoral Council Membership Means to Me”. These will be made available as handouts for parishioners at the coffee (2/25) and will include a picture of the author. It was decided to eliminate the interview process. A general information session will be conducted at an evening program, possibly March 28. The evening discernment will be in April, possibly April 25.

7. **2007 PASTORAL COUNCIL CALENDAR (Jim)** The calendar was reviewed and no changes were made.

8. **PASTOR’S CORNER (Fr. Bill)** Fr. Bill gave an update about the Finance Council and the discernment of its new members. He shared the packet of information given to each member. The group was seen as very enthusiastic. A copy of the newly generated Catechetical Parent-Student Handbook was given to PC members. The Religious Education Board has met on two occasions. They will be visiting other religious education programs in the area and gathering information about the operation of Religious Education Boards through the internet. Again, this is a very enthusiastic group of volunteers. Fr. Bill indicated that he would like to see more education for the Pastoral Council. It was agreed and our next Saturday meeting (2/17/07) will start an hour earlier at 8:30 and Fr. Bill will provide an information session. Fr. Bill also provided the PC with additional reading materials on a variety of leadership topics.

9. **“WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY” AREA OF PARISH LIFE (Therese/Laurie Slinger)** At this time there is no active Liturgy/Worship Committee. Therese will contact Fran Barbone regarding the possibility of re-establishing the committee and/or identifying others who might be interested.

Laurie Slinger reviewed the Spirituality group that meets about once per month to discuss a particular book or reading. The group has about 8 members and generally 4-5 attend each meeting. She is very interested in having a women’s spirituality group. She discussed her concerns about people having difficulty making a commitment for programs that span any length of time. The possibility of shorter program (i.e. a one evening speaker) was discussed. Through the efforts of Laurie and Marilyn Wickel, the labyrinth is tentatively scheduled to be at St. John Neumann’s on February 16 and 17 as part of a Lenten reflection.

10. **FEBRUARY MEETING TOPICS (Mary/All)**

The Saturday, February 17 meeting will begin at 8:30am. This will provide extra time for a formation/education session led by Fr. Bill.

Youth Ministry feedback

The “Evangelization” section of the Five Year Plan will be discussed.

Update the recruitment process.

CLOSING PRAYER (Therese)

Time: 10:00pm

The minutes were prepared by Mary Connolly on January 11, 2007.