

November 17, 2007 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
8:30 AM

OPENING PRAYER (Dana) 8:40

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

Absent: Lyle Garcia and Kevin Dean

1. AGENDA OVERVIEW (Mary)

2. FORMATION (Fr. Bill)

There was a discussion on the final section (structure) from “The Parish, A People, A Mission, A Structure”.

3. EVALUATE TOWN MEETING (All)

The Town Meeting went well. There was an update on the newly formed Property Management Committee from Bill Behrens. Anthony DeStafano provided a summary of Stewardship activities as well as an introduction into the possibilities of automated giving at St. John’s. Greg Wilson introduced a DVD on Malawi which was then viewed by all. Please go to St. John’s website for the powerpoint used at the Town Meeting.

There was also some discussion of the effectiveness of the Town Meeting as a means of communication within the parish. This will be a topic of discussion for the Pastoral Council in the future.

4. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT FIVE YEAR PLAN REVIEW (All)

It was agreed that the Property Management Committee has done an excellent job of beginning to implement many aspects of the 5 Year Plan. They have been planning for the future as well as working on current issues. The committee will be working on reviewing the Master Plan in upcoming meetings.

5. UPDATE FROM THE DIOCESEAN SYNOD (Marilyn, Fr. Bill, Phyllis, Mary)

These Pastoral Council members attended a Diocesan meeting on Sat. November 3rd. In an effort to narrow the issues that need to be addressed within the Diocese, the parishes were asked to review and evaluate choices. They were asked to choose their top five issues (out of 26 areas) that they would like to see addressed as we go forward. Our group chose the following (in no particular order): 1) The Office of Parish Leadership Formation is to establish a basic certification program for lay ecclesial ministers, 2) The Bishop is to mandate the establishment of parish pastoral councils within a definite timeline, 3) Improvement and concentration on Youth Ministry, 4) The Diocese is to establish an Office of Social Justice to work with secular community organizations and various Catholic groups to coordinate efforts to promote the social mission of the church, and 5) Each parish is to develop a social ministry program that will include a needs assessment so that social

services, information, and referrals can be appropriately provided to individuals and families.

The results of this survey have not yet been revealed, but are to be presented to the Bishop by December 31st.

6. CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF YOUTH MINISTRY (All)

Pam updated us on the radio program. The radio program will take place on Tuesday, November 27th from 5-6PM. The discussion will focus on Catholic Heart Work Camp (CHWC) and will include 3 teens that have participated, Mary Connolly, and Fr. Bill. The radio program can be found on WDVR which is 89.7 or 91.9 on the FM dial.

Mary sent a letter out to all students from the parish in 8th and 9th grades inviting them to consider participating in the CHWC. There is a CHWC section on the St. John's website. In the summer of 2008, our group will be heading to Pittsburgh.

It was agreed that collaboration among the various parish youth groups will become more important, and should be encouraged, as we go forward.

Fr. Bill relayed that there are 2 teens who participate in Mass by being lectors.

There were no new updates on Fr. Bill's online blog. He has received some responses back. Fr. Bill sent a letter inviting all the 9th graders who were confirmed to join the blog list. There has been some discussion about a youth trip to Bosnia in 2009. Youth leadership was also discussed along with ways to encourage and promote this. More to come.

7. CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF PARISH PARTICIPATION (Fr. Bill)

Fr. Bill indicated that the current family count for St. John's is 366. This is less than last year and there was some discussion about the various reasons for the decline. There are 12 children that will be receiving First Communion this year. There is ongoing discussion about the registration process, and also how to incorporate personal contact in association with Discovery Sunday.

Fr. Bill would also like to research why some families with young children only participate in religious education.

8. PASTOR'S CORNER (Fr. Bill)

Fr. Bill indicated the Jim Weber is no longer working with the music ministry on Sundays. He has taken another job which offers medical benefits. He will still work with music ministry at Sat. Mass as well as some Holy days.

Upon further investigation into automated giving, some concerns have been raised regarding the associated bank fees. There will be additional research and then another update.

The Fair Trade program is going forward and is coordinated by Anthony DeStefano. Anthony is still looking for parishioners to help sell these items after Masses in Dec.

Fr. Bill has indicated that he is going to make a concerted effort on two fronts in the upcoming months. Firstly, he is hoping that all parishioners will return the Time, Talent, and Treasure forms. He would like to see these parishioners then contacted to acknowledge that they have indicated their willingness to help. If a parishioner has not been thanked and contacted by the end of January, they are to notify him and he will address it. Secondly, Fr. Bill would like to see an increase in the number of families participating in the grocery store gift card program. He will be discussing this in the months to come.

The following handouts were given:

A Brief Comparison of Corporate & Pastoral Leadership

A passage from The Culture Code

The financial report of our parish that was sent to the Diocese

The 25th Anniversary celebration plans are ongoing. There will be banners for the parking lot. T-shirts will be sold. There has been some interest in a CD of the concert that was performed.

9. DECEMBER MEETING TOPICS (Mary/All)

Review Covenant for possible changes

Review and update Formation section of Five Year Plan (Dr. Rose Fay/Mayilyn)

Review and update Finance section of the Five Year Plan (Phyllis/Finance Committee)

New prayer schedule

CLOSING PRAYER (Dana)

Minutes prepared by Therese Shick 11/19/07