

September 15, 2007 Pastoral Council Minutes
8:30AM

Present: Marilyn Wickel, Dana Wilson, Mary Connolly, Fr. Bill, Therese Shick, Lyle Garcia, Kevin Dean (until 10:30), and Pam Stewart (arrived 9:30)
Absent: Phyllis Baker and John Cole

1. OPENING PRAYER: Lyle Garcia 8:45 AM
2. FORMATION SESSION (Fr. Bill)
We continued our discussion of *The Parish: A People, A Mission, A Structure*
3. REVIEW LEADERSHIP SECTION OF FIVE YEAR PLAN (All)
New Pastoral Council members were effectively sought and encouraged to join for the 2007-2008 term. Work is being done on the Stewardship forms to help identify and clarify when and what parishioners are volunteering for. Anthony DeStefano is currently the only person working on Stewardship. Lyle Garcia plans to make contact with Anthony regarding the revamped questionnaire and how to effectively go forward. The person who was the Pastoral Council liaison at the Diocesan level has not yet been replaced. As a result, there have not been many workshops or seminars offered.

Fr. Bill is communicating in an ongoing basis about the predicted shortage of priests in the future. He feels that parishioners will not feel this impact until they are faced with an actual situation where they must do without a priest. Earl Roberts took the next step toward the Diaconate on September 15 by participating in a Rite of Acceptance ceremony. Fr. Bill has asked a few men in the past and will consider others who may be able and willing to become deacons. This is an ongoing process.

There was discussion about the recognition of parish leaders. This recognition could take place at a future Town Meeting or possibly the 25th Anniversary celebration. The Shared Wisdom model has been used by the Finance Council and the Property Management Committee. It continues to be a learning process for all but the results of the model and the consensus building are encouraging.

4. DISCUSS PARISH PARTICIPATION (Fr. Bill)
Fr. Bill now has 7 high school and 9 college students who have responded to his invitation to communicate via the Internet. Fr. Bill has sent a couple of e-mails to these young people and hopes to have a blog up and running soon.

A handout on the Summary of 5 Years of Mass Collections was discussed. The general trend is that less parishioners are actually giving more each week. Fr. Bill has noticed less people at Mass overall. The participation of

children in the Children's Liturgy has declined as well. Currently St. John's has approximately 396 families.

There are ongoing discussions about how to reach out to those who have not been coming to Mass for some time. Many times an inquiry to the family is helpful in determining the reason for the lack of attendance. This effort is coordinated by the Evangelization Team and Fr. Bill. There has been some discussion about reviewing the effectiveness of Discovery Sunday and the Baptism process.

5. TOWN MEETING PREPARATION (All)

The content of the November 5th Town Meeting will be as follows:

Introduction by Mary Connolly

Brief discussions by the Finance Council and the Property Management Committee.

Malawi Jake presentation (this is pending a confirmation from Dana that Jake is available that evening).

Pizza, soda and water are to be served before the beginning of the presentations.

The following members agreed to bring dessert to have while socializing after the presentations: Marilyn, Therese, Pam and Lyle.

The details of the Town Meeting will be finalized at the Oct. 17th Pastoral Council Meeting.

6. PASTOR'S CORNER (Fr. Bill)

The stones for the Labyrinth have been delivered. The 25th Anniversary magnets are in. As of November, Jim Weber will no longer be music director on Sundays.

Fr. Bill gave the Council the following handouts:

A copy of the new families at St. John's

2007 Bishop's Annual Appeal (by Parish)

2007-08 Budget Schedule

***Men of Hope Working Together: Time for Change* by Robert Beloin**

The Triumph of Evangelical Catholicism

7. WED. OCTOBER 17TH MEETING TOPICS (7:00 PM)

Finalize Town Meeting

Update Finance and Stewardship (Phyllis)

Review Finance and Stewardship sections of the Five Year Plan

8. CLOSING PRAYER (Lyle 12:20)