

February 16, 2008 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
8:30 AM

OPENING PRAYER Therese (8:40)

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

Absent: Mary Connolly

1. AGENDA OVERVIEW (Phyllis, Pam)

Pam Stewart mentioned that we would have another opportunity in the spring to participate in a radio program on WDVR in Seargantsville. The radio program would be on a Tuesday from 5:00-6:00 PM. The date will be determined later. A proposed topic is the Shared Wisdom model and Pastoral Councils.

2. FORMATION (Fr. Bill)

As with each Pastoral Council Meeting that occurs on a Saturday, Fr. Bill led the group with a spiritual discussion. The concentration was on traditions, living story telling, and how these affect the world and our relationships. The following handouts were given:

- 1) Reflections (from Christian Sacraments in a Postmodern World)**
- 2) Faith Sharing and Theological Reflection (from Sharing Wisdom)**
- 3) Gifts, Needs, and Expectations (from Sharing Wisdom)**
- 4) Guiding the Roles of Pastors and Pastoral Councils (from Origins)**

These documents are intended to deepen the Council's understanding of spiritual matters as well as the practical aspects of being a member on the Pastoral Council. The members are expected to read these documents prior to the next Saturday meeting, May 17, 2008 with particular concentration on the third handout listed.

3. INPUT REGARDING POSSIBLE NEW MEMBERS (All)

There was a general discussion on how to invite parishioners to consider becoming a member of the Pastoral Council. It was agreed that Mary Connolly would send out an e-mail encouraging Council members to think about potential parishioners who might be interested in becoming a member.

4. REVIEW RECRUITMENT DATES/ ACTIVITIES (All)

- A. Beginning next weekend, Feb. 23 and 24, there will be information on becoming a Pastoral Council member in the bulletin.**
- B. A PC member will speak at each of the Masses on the weekend of April 5 and 6. This talk will focus on being a member of the Pastoral Council. There will be a coffee after the 10:30 Mass on April 6th. At this coffee, current PC members will be available to answer any questions for parishioners.**

- C. Either April 7, 8, or 9 (date to be determined soon) there will be a PC Information Session conducted to provide more detail of the Pastoral Council and answer specific questions for parishioners with interest.**
- D. Finally, there will be a Discernment evening available either the week of April 21-24 or May 12-15. This process would help the potential PC member to decide if being on the Pastoral Council is right for them.**

The Pastoral Council Induction (of the three new members) will take place on Sunday June 1, 2008 at the 10:30 Mass. On that date, the following three members will be at the end of their term of service: Lyle Garcia, Marilyn Wickel and Therese Shick.

- 5. **YOUTH MINISTRY DISCUSSION (All)**
Fr. Bill has not been encouraged by the blog. He will continue to correspond with the 7 to 8 high school and college kids that originally participated. The Council will continue to pursue avenues by which to encourage the youth of our parish to become a more integral part of the community.
- 6. **COMPLETE THE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SURVEY (All)**
Barbara Martalus (a member of the Property Management Committee) was kind enough to come and conduct a survey of the PC regarding our space uses and needs.
- 7. **INPUT ON THE NEW ST. JOHN'S INTRODUCTION PROCESS (All)**
Because of their limited effectiveness as they currently exist, Discovery Sundays have been cancelled. Fr. Bill and Earl Roberts are working together to create a new method of introducing potential parishioners to our parish. They would like to respond to inquiries from the general public in a very timely manner, while keeping the community aspect of St. John's front and center. There were some ideas presented and others will be considered as Earl and Fr. Bill continue to refine this procedure. There will be updates as the process is finalized in the future.
- 8. **INPUT IDEAS FOR THE "ALL ARE WELCOME" BOOK (All)**
Work is continuing to go forward on the 25th Anniversary Picture Book. This will concentrate on a photo history of St. John's. First the photos will be attained and narrowed to make up the content of the book, and then text will be added. This book will be available at the May 18th celebration day.
- 9. **PASTOR'S CORNER (Fr. Bill)**
Fr. Bill is working with Earl Roberts on a potential idea of having a couple wide screen T.V.s installed on either side of the altar (off to the side). These could be used for Town Meetings, hymnal songs, and the Bishops's Annual Appeal just to name a few applications. John Cole will pursue an outside consultation to determine the cost and process necessary to make that a reality.

A recent Stewardship Comm. Meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. The Labyrinth “coins” are in. They are available to hold in your hand or as a necklace around the neck.

Eddie D’Armiento will be landscaping around the Labyrinth for his Boy Scout Eagle project.

Fr. Bill also provided the revised Diocese of Metuchen Mission Statement and a schedule of upcoming events at the Institute for Christian Spirituality at Seton Hall.

10. FIVE YEAR PLAN UPDATE (Lyle)

Lyle has set up a meeting to begin the Five Year Plan review process. The following members are on this subcommittee: Lyle Garcia (chair), Fr. Bill, Pam Stewart, Dana Wilson, Kevin Dean, Mary Connolly, and Phyllis Baker. The meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 21st at 5:30 PM in the Drexel Room.

11. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 7:00 PM MEETING AGENDA

Present updated Five Year Plan (Lyle and subcommittee)

PC Recruitment update/discussion

March Prayer: Marilyn

Review member effectiveness sheet

Further discussion of the St. John’s Introduction Process

CLOSING PRAYER (Therese) 12:10 PM

Minutes prepared by Therese Shick on 2/16/08