

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting 30 November 2009

Present: Fr. Ed, Deacon Chuck, Marie Busch, Henry Schwartz, Kathleen Voelmle

Meeting began at 7:10PM with a prayer and Scripture reading.

1. Prayers were requested for Jeanne Hagarty during her illness and Council membership was discussed: while it was agreed that election by discernment provided a good basis it was discussed whether current membership properly reflects the parish demographics. Fr. Ed opened the floor for suggestions in a major group seen as lacking for the Council: young people. Names were provided and Fr. Ed will contact them for directed consideration into the Council and will report progress at the next meeting.
2. It was suggested that the Council periodically conduct open sessions, keeping the parish directly apprised of its actions and allowing direct input. After discussion the following format was recommended:
 - a. Pastoral Council meetings inviting the entire parish community would be held twice a year and would be publicized one month prior to the meeting date.
 - b. The Council would open with a celebration of the Eucharist at the church location and would move down to Barna Hall (St. Joseph's) or Toth Hall (St. Peter's) for the meeting.
 - c. After the agenda items were discussed and addressed in the presence of the parish community, items offered by the community would be put forward. These items would be entered through the *Comments and Suggestions* boxes at the two church locations and would be collected one week before the meeting for review by the Council members. It was felt that this would permit the parish to provide direct input into the meeting while still maintaining a balanced and productive flow to the meeting.
 - d. One of the parish groups will be contacted to assist in providing hospitality (coffee and light refreshments) after the meeting.The proposal for periodic open sessions was approved by the Council and will be implemented during the 2010 meeting schedule.
3. Further discussions on the parish Mission Statement was conducted, building upon the recommendations for "working" statements from the last meeting. After a period for comment and review, the statement was finalized and will be published in the Christmas bulletin for the parish community.
4. Cards from the *Comments and Suggestions* were discussed. Among the items were: Location and cost of the parish Religious Education program (Fr. Ed mentioned that he will discuss addressing traffic issues and session sizes with the Director of Religious Education); the use of artificial flowers on the altar (Fr. Ed commented that it is believed that the use of both artificial and live decorations provide a good balance for liturgical esthetics and cost); possible re-alignment of Mass times (Fr. Ed said that although there are no immediate plans for change the current schedule, it is undergoing continual review and may be considered if circumstances require it.)
5. John Mongon attended the Vibrant Pastoral Councils meeting at Holy Innocents on 11/14. Since he was not present to make a reports, the item was tabled until the next meeting.
6. Open forum:
 - a. Kathleen asked if the Prayer for Priests was not going to be said at the 5PM Mass due to Advent Vespers. Fr. Ed replied that last weekend's omission was an oversight and that the Prayer is intended to be used at all Masses during the Year for the Priest.
 - b. Deacon Chuck requested that, in order for the congregation to better understand the vocational nature of the Vocation Prayer Chalice, the deacon should be involved in giving the blessing to the family receiving the Chalice for the week. Fr. Ed agreed and asked the deacons to remind the celebrant of this when the chalice is presented.

Meeting ended at 8:40 with a prayer. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 28th at St. Joseph's.