

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
June 9, 2009

IN ATTENDANCE

Fr. John Hennessey, , Mike Finley, Bill Zorc, Sue Zimmer, Russ Lehocky; Ann Oakley, Gerrie Neville Eric Gall, Ted Polk, Rick Curschman, Brian Will, Roland Catherall, Jack Pepping, Paul Aichele. We had three visitors from St. James of Highwood: Judy Cullen, Lil Bolek and Bob Carney. We also had five visitors: Kathy O'Connor, Jim Connell, Paula Boll, Randy Nipper and John Jurecko.

UNABLE TO ATTEND. Tom Dutton, Rena Calanca. Previous month's minutes were accepted.

OPENING PRAYER: Breaking Open The Word:

The Parish Pastoral Council members participated in reflection on the next Sunday's Gospel: Mark 14: 12-16, 22-26. Responses included: The Eucharist moment, breaking, blessing and giving. Preparation, invitation to God's house, acceptance of Christ.

PARISH MISSION REFLECTION

We strive to make our Mission Statement more than just words. The PPC is working to make the Mission a living document through our initiatives and directives.

CHAIR REPORT:

Jack discussed the summer gathering that will be on July 14th at the priest's house. Main dishes will be provided, PPC members will be asked to bring appetizers, desert and clean up. More details to follow. Jack thanked our PPC members who are rotating off for their years of service: Eric, Mike, Brian, Rick and Jack. These members provided guidance and help for Father John and our parish.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Father started by thanking our departing members and also welcoming all our visitors. St. James of Highwood is currently forming a PPC and is here to observe our meeting. Father said he grateful for everyone's input. There will be a switch for our Religious Education program. Roz will be taking a part-time role and Regina will take over as full time director on August 1st. Regina, Alison and Claire have been wonderful additions to our staff. The outlook for attendance at our school in the fall looks good. We look to keep enrolment about even with this year. The population of younger students is down in Libertyville district. We will be facing a number of challenges and opportunities for our parish. We need to determine who we want to be and how we want to project ourselves into the future. The Cook Memorial library is moving into some of our retail space. We anticipate them renting the space for about 1-1/2 years. Father also discussed the change from white to red wine for the Precious Blood during masses starting the weekend of the Feast of The Body and Blood of Christ, June 14, 2009.

COMMISSION REPORTS / HIGHLIGHTS:

Faith Formation: Name changed to Faith Formation Commission. Seeking new members. Reading the book: Growing an Engaged Church and working with the Spiritual Life Commission.

Human Concerns: Review of Social Justice Ministry and what is being supported financially. Also reviewing the Stewardship of Talent cards. Kevin Murphy attended their last meeting and is helping them develop into a small faith community. Patti Ann will step down as chair. The commission will discern a new chair.

Spiritual Life: Ministry Fair on August 23-24 and August 29-30. Women's retreat is August 7-9, Next men's CHRIP is October 22-23. There are six people participating in RCIA this time around. Jennifer is stepping down as chair. The commission will discern a new chair.

Stewardship: Just completed the Talent portion of Time, Treasure & Talent. Notes from their recent meeting were shared with the group. Acknowledgement calls will be made by the commission to the parish so each person volunteering is called via the phone.

Parish Life: A number of social events are being organized for the fall. The second annual Trivia Night is scheduled for November. Several other social events including coffees after mass are scheduled for the summer and fall.

Finance: No additional report.

PPC FEBRUARY RETREAT CONTINUED:

Roland Catherall discussed his answers to the questions each of us were presented in our February retreat.

FUTURE OF OUR PARISH, PPC SUBGROUP:

Roland discussed the follow up meetings that were had since our last meeting. The subgroup discussed possible changes to our parish mission and vision, financial issues and the challenges of our parish going from three very active priests to possibly one priest. The group will work to assess where we are today and where we want to go in accordance with what our finances are and what we can afford. The Finance Committee has made a request to have our parish wean ourselves from the mall income as part of our future budgeting and operating income. The group's goal is to create a task force to take on a leadership role, empowered to take a census of our parish inventory. The subgroup will be looking for people with certain talents. An invitation has been written and is in the approval phase today. The invitation will be sent out to likely groups that may want to voluntarily help out. The task force's goal will be to put a plan together for our parish and what our needs will be for the future. The task force will make a series of recommendations, based on the reaching out, census, to every parishioner and to generate the report by the end of 2010. A goal is to engage and invite our parish members to participate into the shaping of the future of our parish. We will all need to read the book "Growing an Engaged Church" (maybe a summer reading assignment for the PPC and Commissions). The subgroup will try to put the structure in place to get all parishioners to participate. There are plenty of areas for all, both more active parishioners and more inactive – to become involved. The key objective is to have this initiative become a movement within our parish, to have more participation and serve more of the needs of our parishioners. Due to the work done with evangelization in recent years, there is a potential for many parishioners to have interest in helping this effort. Our lay community has been training, discerning and working towards stepping up to minister to our parish.

2009-2010 PPC:

Ted Polk will be our new chair for the upcoming year and Jack Pepping, this past year's chair was thanked for his efforts. Suggestions for new PPC members from our council have been made and announcements have been printed in the Carpenter looking for members. We, the St. Joseph PPC, are a small faith community. We touch multiple issues covering a multitude of parish life areas and will continue to be a guiding body to our pastor. Our tradition has been a three year commitment for new members with the first year being a year of learning and observation. We are looking to build our leadership team for the upcoming year. Ted asked all members to discern and contact him about a calling one may feel we have, or a recommendation for new members to the leadership team.

LISTENINGS: Many parishioners like the name tags at mass. People like to be recognized and know others, going where "everybody knows your name." Also noted was the appreciation of Father John, coming to the Eagle Scout ceremony for a couple of our youth.

Next meeting is July 14, in the evening at the priest's house for a year-end social and potluck dinner. More details to follow from Jack.

Closing prayer and adjournment