

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 13, 2009

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Fr. John Hennessey, Tom Dutton, Mike Finley, Ted Polk, Sue Zimmer, Russ Lehocky; Rena Calanca, Ann Oakley, Gerrie Neville Eric Gall, Bill Zorc, Jack Pepping, Paul Aichele.

**UNABLE TO ATTEND:** Rick Curschman, Brian Will, Roland Catherall.

The previous month's minutes were approved.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Breaking Open The Word:

The Parish Pastoral Council members participated in reflection on the next Sunday's Gospel: John 1: 35-42

**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, directives and incarnated.

**SERVANT LEADERSHIP FOCUS,** (We postponed our SL Focus this meeting)

**PASTOR'S REPORT**

Father talked to us about what we are doing as a council really is. It has been ten years since the PPC has started. The PPC is an advisory board for Father and he really appreciates the help from our group. So many times parishioners will talk to him but not really open up or are afraid to make him upset by answering his questions. Today our finances are flat year over year. If we were to have a serious financial problem, Father is concerned about our mission being impacted. Father is looking for assistance from a parish focus group to help him on being a pastor to us. Father is very interested in us sharing our opinions and allowing the Spirit into our meetings. From our December meeting: Father asked each of us to respond via email to these questions: 1. How are people doing? 2. Is there something that Father John or our Parish should be doing to help with today's economy? 3. What is good stewardship in the light of today's economy?

**SERVANT LEADERSHIP GATHERING:**

Date: February 28, 2009 in the Formation Center. Gather at 7:30a.m. hard start at 8:00 a.m. with plans to complete at 4:00 p.m.. Effective Christian Leadership is the subject matter of the day. We may have a format change for this day. We are also looking to develop a "hard copy facebook" for the Parish.

**SUCCESSION PLANNING & Redefining PPC:**

Kevin led an open discussion for our PPC members. The objective is to allow all members an opportunity to share their ideas and thoughts. He noted that many times the meeting after the meeting is every bit as important as the scheduled meeting and many times more fun. Noting that we are an advisory board to our pastor, Kevin asked us also think about what we want the PPC to be. What were we called to the group by the Spirit for and what can we contribute to our parish and meeting? Kevin affirmed a very strong encouragement of each other at these meetings. He asked us to also think about

why the Spirit has tapped us out to be here. We need to consider what talents we need in the PPC when we ask for the Spirit's help in asking people to join our group.

Much open discussion followed including:

- Continuing the theme of widening the circle of people participating in our parish events.
- Opening up our parish to get to know each other better.
- Getting to know how and what we pray for.
- Understand what we all delight in and what makes us sad.
- What are our Wildly Important Goals?
- How can we help the Faith Formation Commission?
- When was the last time we affirmed and thanked the commissions?

We will continue these discussions at our February meeting and at our retreat.

### CHAIR REPORT:

Jack mentioned the many positive comments from PPC members concerning the ambiance change for our meetings. He affirmed the need for our meeting to continue to be much more open for discussion on any subject and a safe environment to say what is on our minds. We will continue to strive to allow the Spirit to embrace us during our meetings. Jack also invited us all to see the new St. Joe's website.

### COMMISSION REPORTS

Faith Formation: Seder service scheduled for the Koenig Center on 3/29/09.. The Christmas Art show was fantastic but not well attended. The commission continues to struggle in formation. There is a lack of members and representation from various groups. Ideas, thoughts and prayers are welcome.

Human Concerns: Presentation last month to PPC.

Spiritual Life: No report this month.

Stewardship: Called & Gifted workshop is this weekend. Stations of the Cross will be held on 3/20/09

Parish Life: A handout from Dave & Glenda from their very successful program: 10 Great Dates, promoting the marriage ministry. January 23 will be movie night with The Blues Brothers in the Koenig Center.

Finance: Collections are holding their own and are similar to the rest of the diocese.

Father reminded us how very fortunate we are, as a family of faith, to have the talent we do on our commissions. There is a process for the commissions to request funds. Jack will send out a note to the commission chairpersons on how to request funds.

Next meeting is February 10, 7:00 PM in Loughry Room; Gerrie Neville and Tom Dutton will lead our prayer on Breaking Open The Word.

### Schedule for Breaking Open the Word:

February 10, Gerrie Neville, Tom Dutton

March 10, Ted Polk, Paul Aichele

April 14, Eric Gall, Roland Catherall

May 12, Ann Oakley, Michael Finley

June 9, Rick Curschman, Rena Calanca

Closing prayer and adjournment