

Minutes of St. Jerome Pastoral Council Meeting 1/30/06

In Attendance: Father David Blanchfield, Bob Olson, Dan Loch, Anne Groener, Erin Halsey, Kathy Jaeger, Ronalee Grant, Pat Hauptman, Judi Dennehy, Kathy Coyne, Claire Budnik, Tony Petraia, Rich Vicenzi, Judd Mellott, Bramwell Wood, Dean Finch, John Wagner, and Father Joe Palacino.

Pat Hauptman led the council in prayer and reflection in the church before convening in the parish hall. Minutes from the December 12 meeting were read and accepted.

Parish Mission: The parish mission scheduled for the first week in April is expected to be our parish focal point for the upcoming Lenten season. To kickoff the mission, two Dominican priests and a nun will be preaching at all weekend masses on April 1 and April 2. Then on Monday through Thursday that same week, they will lead two daily talks, one morning and one evening. Planning is in the initial stages, but each session will likely begin with a talk, then break for refreshments and close with an open mike style question and answer period. Focal points include a Communal Penance service on Tuesday and a Communal Anointing of the Sick on Thursday. As members of the parish council, our mission is to encourage attendance as this will be a real boost for parish life. All are encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible. A marketing flier and a church banner are in the works. Signup sheets will be posted in the main hallway to recruit volunteers to bake, greet, setup/cleanup, etc.

Generations of Faith: This event will be a much simpler version of the Continental Manor kickoff session and will be held in house in the parish hall. Two evening sessions from 6:30 – 9:00 are scheduled for February 28 and March 3 where a simple dinner will be served. A morning breakfast session is scheduled for Saturday, March 4 from 10 – 12:30. Father Dave and Dan have chosen the material and prepared the timeline. A marketing flier is in process. Terry Petraia, Ronalee Grant and Claire Budnik will head the food committee.

Youth Minister Job Search: A job description will be submitted to *America Magazine* and *National Catholic Reporter* and will run for 4-5 weeks after we explore internal candidates. The job will also be posted at several Catholic universities including Boston College and Fairfield University. This is a full-time position and interested applicants will be interviewed by the committee previously established at the December council meeting. Judi's retirement party will be held at the parish hall on Sunday, June 4th from 3:00 – 6:00 and will fittingly conclude with the Life Teen Mass.

Parish Directory: Father Dave and Kathy Coyne are reviewing the first proof and will hand off to Erin Halsey and Bob DeSimone for final review before going to print.

AmeriCares Homefront: An organizational meeting is scheduled for February 16. It is anticipated that we will be working on a house in Norwalk. Joe Obolinski has been appointed house captain. At least thirty to forty volunteers are needed to work on the house, run errands and provide food. Signups will be posted in the hallway to recruit volunteers.

New Business:

Car Raffle: This year's raffle is scheduled for Tuesday evening, June 6 at the Continental Manor.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 6. Father Joe led the council in prayer before council adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Budnik