

Minutes of St. Jerome Pastoral Council Meeting of 11/13/06

In Attendance: Dan Loch, Father Dave, Father Joe, Pat Olson, Judd Mellott, Ronalee Grant, Woody Wood, Dean Finch, Claire Budnik, MJ Bruno, John Wagner, Erin Halsey, Anne Groener, Kathy Jaeger and Kathy Coyne.

Judd Mellott led the council in prayer and reflection in the church. Minutes from the October 16 meeting were read and accepted.

Pastor's Report:

GIFT-Advent (Growing in Faith Together): Overall, the program worked well. As anticipated, we were at full capacity for the morning session with about 160 people in attendance. Changing the time for the 2nd session from 3:00 P.M to 7:00 P.M. proved worthwhile as this resulted in doubling the initial signups with 75 people in attendance.

Homefront Day #2: The weather was favorable on Saturday, November 11 as Father Joe led a team of 23 helpers of all ages tackle general house and yard work for another parishioner in need.

Finance Committee:

1. Financial statements have been mailed out to all parishioners. A contribution envelope for those wishing to make donations to upgrade our sound system was included in the mailing.
2. St. Jerome recently received a \$20K grant from the Culpeper Foundation towards building improvements. At least half is targeted towards renovating the two classrooms in the lower hall. The remaining funds will go towards other miscellaneous improvements in the downstairs hall.
3. Faith Direct is still on target to begin in January 2007.
4. A meeting for all diocesan finance councils is scheduled for November 20 at St. Matthew's. The agenda is good parish financial accountability with emphasis on offertory collection controls and creating financial statements that are both easy to read and consistent in format among all diocesan parishes.

Parish Projects Status:

Saturday Mass: The 4:00 Mass on November 11 was well attended (first since the time change from 5:00).

Parish Newsletter: Four articles for the December newsletter are in the works. Dan presented a sample layout for council review and all agreed it looks great. We will honor tradition and continue to call it the *Translator*. It was suggested that we publish the Christmas Eve/Day Mass schedule in this issue. If possible, we should also consider listing new parishioners and the newly baptized.

Bring a Friend to Church, 1st Sunday in Advent: Dan presented samples of a bulletin insert and a postcard to be mailed to all families announcing the event. After a lengthy discussion, the council decided that while this is a worthwhile project, we will postpone this until Lent. The general consensus was it would be difficult to adequately staff the event on Thanksgiving weekend and response may be better if it were held on a non-holiday weekend.

Welcoming Newcomers to the Parish: Erin suggested that the welcome kit include coupons (i.e., 10% off products and/or services) from local businesses that are run by our parishioners.

Bible Study: Dean gave a brief summary of the Jeff Cavins Bible Study video program that is being considered for our Lenten Bible Study. More discussion will follow at the next council meeting.

New Business:

St. Jerome Christmas Postcard: Dan created a beautiful sample of a parish postcard which was enthusiastically endorsed by the council. Kathy Coyne suggested a format that would significantly reduce the printing costs.

Father Dave said that at this time, a December council meeting is not necessary. The next meeting will be held on January 22. Father Joe led the council in closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Claire Budnik
Council Secretary