

Minutes of St. Jerome Pastoral Council Meeting of May 8, 2006

In Attendance: Father David Blanchfield, Bob Olson, Dan Loch, Erin Halsey, Ronalee Grant, Kathy Jaeger, Kathy Coyne, Woody Wood, Claire Budnik, Rich Vicenzi, Dean Finch, Tony Petraia, and John Wagner. The following nominated members for 2006-2008 council terms were also present: Rebecca Sweeney, Andy Carney, Greg Kryspin and Tom Bennett. Father David explained the mission of the parish council before beginning the meeting.

Dan led the council in prayer and reflection in the church before convening in the parish hall. Minutes from the March 13 meeting were read and accepted.

Pastor Report/Old Business:

April Parish Mission/Holy Week: The mission was well attended and Father David received extraordinary feedback from a diverse cross section of the parishioners. Holy Week services were also very well attended and Father was especially pleased to see that the Holy Thursday Mass had a significant increase in attendance.

Youth Minister Job Search: It's official! Our new Youth Minister is Pat Olson. For the last five years, Pat has been a TOTAL Team member and she will start her new position on July 1 on a part-time basis. Plans for Judi's retirement party on June 4 are well under way.

AmeriCares Homefront: Approximately 35 parishioners showed up to make minor repairs and paint the exterior and interior of a Norwalk home located on Magnolia Avenue. Participants agreed that this event is worth repeating and Father David noted this as a perfect example of how to carry out our parish mission. The need for help within the Norwalk community alone results in 20 to 25 AmeriCares Homefront applications a year. Of these, 12 to 15 are accepted. Woody will stay connected with the organization as we consider sponsoring another local Homefront project in the future.

Car Raffle: So far, ticket sales are doing well. Tulio Lopez sold 100 tickets on his own and one of his business associates purchased 20 tickets and wrote St. Jerome Parish on each ticket. The drawing and dinner will be held at Continental Manner on June 6.

Pastoral Council Elections: Thirty-eight parishioners were nominated for the six open slots. Thirty-four nominees were eligible with fourteen nominees accepting their candidacy. Elections will be held the weekends of 5/13 and 5/20.

New Business:

Heart Walk: Erin Halsey announced this year's walk is set for Sunday, October 29 at Sherwood Island and hopes that St. Jerome will once again participate.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 12. Father Dave led the council in prayer before council adjourned at 8:44.

Respectfully Submitted,
Claire Budnik