

Minutes of St. Jerome Pastoral Council Meeting of 9/11/06

In Attendance: Dan Loch, Tony Petraia, Anne Groener, Erin Halsey, Ronalee Grant, Kathy Jaeger, Pat Olson, Claire Budnik, John Wagner, Rebecca Sweeney, Kevin Smyth, Bramwell Wood, Judd Mellott, Rich Vincenzi, and Kathy Coyne.

Kathy Coyne led the council in prayer and reflection in the church. Minutes from the June 12 meeting were read and accepted.

Council Membership Change: Tony Petraia, council member and Vice Chair will be moving to Nevada in October. Kevin Smyth was the next running candidate with the most votes in the June 06 elections and will assume Tony's spot effective immediately. Judd Mellott was nominated, seconded and elected to replace Tony as Vice Chair for the upcoming council year. Many thanks to Tony and his wife Terry for all they have done for our parish.

Old Business:

Parishioner In Need House Project: Approximately 35 parishioners spent the day cleaning the yard and painting the home of an elderly parishioner on Saturday, August 28. Many thanks to all who participated and an extra special thanks to Mike Fredericks and Father Joe for all their preliminary work spent scraping and prepping the house for painting. Project was a huge success!

Parish Picnic (OktoberFest): The date is set for Sunday October 1. Tickets will be sold for \$12 each at all Masses beginning 9/16 and ending 9/24. Tickets will also be sold at the door, but will cost \$4 more. The event is already well publicized at the church and reminder flyers will be sent home with Reach students.

Finance Committee: Our parish will be enlisting the service of Finance Direct, a bonded and insured company which provides churches with strategic plans to increase overall donations. Beginning in January 07, our parishioners will have the opportunity to make monthly offerings via credit card or automatic checking debit. Finance Direct will begin the marketing for this program in November. Goal is to get at least 30% of the parish on the program. In addition to a projected increase in our offertory collections, it is expected that we will see a much better cash flow with this program. Donations typically decline in the summer and surge when school is back in session.

New Projects for the Coming Year:

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together): The new Reach calendar includes 4 GIFT sessions to correspond with the most significant liturgical periods of the year. The first event will focus on Advent and have 2 sessions on Sunday, November 5. A morning session will begin with the 9:15 Mass and a late afternoon session will end with the 6:00 TOTAL Mass. The format will include prayer, scripture, media, group activity and a take home activity. In pew registration will take place over the course of two to three weeks. Last weekend to register will be 10/15.

5:00 Saturday Mass Survey: Some of our senior parishioners are concerned about driving home in the dark after the 5:00 Mass and have inquired about the possibility of moving the Mass to 4:00. Judd Mellott will handle an in pew survey.

Parish Newsletter: This was last done two or three years ago and we would like to start doing this again. Woody Wood, John Wagner and Anne Groener will organize.

Bring a Friend to Church to Sunday in Advent: We may consider this for the first Sunday in Advent to coincide with GIFT. Kevin Smyth and Anne Groener will handle.

Welcoming Newcomers to the Parish: It was suggested that we create welcome kits to be handed out to new families registering with the parish. Erin Halsey will handle.

Church Bulletin: We started to talk about expanding the weekly bulletin to include more church news. We will look into this at a future meeting.

The next meeting will be held October 16. Dan led the council in closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully Submitted,
Claire Budnik
Council Secretary