

Minutes of St. Jerome Pastoral Council Meeting 4/9/07

In Attendance: Dan Loch, Father Dave, Father Joe, Woody Wood, Pat Olson, MJ Bruno, Claire Budnik, Ronalee Grant, Rich Vicenzi, Kevin Smyth and Judd Mellott.

Kevin Smith led the council in prayer and reflection in the church.

Guest Speaker:

Special thanks to John DiDomizo for joining us on his birthday to speak on behalf of the Social Concerns Committee. The committee is 11 years young and meets on the 4th Monday of each month. The group sponsors and engages the parish in a variety of activities including drives to collect school supplies; used cell phones; mosquito nets; supplies for troops; and holiday gifts for Christian Community Action families, Honey Hill residents, and Julie's Kids. Social Concerns also manages the parish monthly food collections and milk fund drives which support Christian Community Action and other local charities. Approximately 2 tons of food was collected at the annual Lenten food drive held on March 24/25. Upcoming events include an Earth Day speaker on Monday, April 23 and an offertory collection in mid May to benefit the Domestic Violence Crisis Center. Look for announcements of current events on the recently refurbished Social Concerns bulletin board in the church main hallway.

Minutes from the March 12 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Pastor's Report:

Holy Week: The entire week was holy, reverent and beautiful with attendance significantly up from last year for all Holy Week services.

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together): Incorporating GIFT into our existing Reach program has proven to be a successful model. Our third session of the school year was held on Sunday, March 25 and focused on The Triduum. Three grade levels and a generous sprinkling of non-Reach parishioners enthusiastically participated with attendance remaining consistent at about 160. This is the max we can handle in the parish hall.

Bible Study: Attendance continues to be strong with newcomers joining as we go along.

Faith Direct: The Finance Committee placed an insert in the March 17/18 bulletin and the following weekend Judd Mellott spoke at all Masses to address the merits of the offertory giving program. Father Dave reports that so far we have done well in the initial three months with enrollment increasing from 35 families in February to 58 as of the first week in April. We also anticipate having a larger Easter collection this year.

Annual Bishop's Appeal: St. Jerome's goal is \$66K and we are close to the midpoint. In pew registration will be held the weekend of April 20/21.

Church Security: The security camera donated by John Davis is now in place.

Car Raffle: So far, we have made a \$12K deposit. John Kuzco will attend the May council meeting to discuss the Raffle which will be held on Tuesday, June 5 at the Continental Manor.

Miscellaneous: Father Dave reminded us that we need to be constantly thinking ahead to the needs of our parish. A recent plumbing emergency on Easter weekend prompted Father Dave to make a pitch at Mass for a plumber. A parishioner came forward, offered to take a look and fixed the problem. Let's think about how we can develop a stronger Building and Grounds Committee. Father also mentioned there is some interest in perhaps forming a Men's Guild/Group within the parish.

Parish Projects:

Parish Newsletter: Dan Loch, Woody Wood, John Wagner and Anne Groener put together an impressive eight page Easter issue which was posted on the website and mailed to parishioners on April 2. Thinking ahead to next year, the Easter issue should be mailed a week earlier so it arrives before Holy Week.

Newcomers: Erin Halsey will forward a dozen copies of the Newcomers informational packages to Pat Florio to keep on hand for newly registered families.

May 20 Meet the Parish Groups and Open House: Dan sent a letter to fifteen parish groups and to date fourteen groups have agreed to participate. Rebecca will contact each group to solicit volunteers to man the tables for a ½ hour immediately following each of the three Sunday morning Masses on May 20.

Americares Homefront: Save the date for Saturday, May 5. The repairs on our assigned home are not expected to be as labor intensive as last year. In the event we have a surplus of volunteers, Father Dave knows of another home project that could use our help.

Parish Elections: The nomination ballots and boxes are ready to go. Nominations will be accepted starting on April 14 and close on April 22. Elections will be held on May 5/6 and May 12/13.

The next council meeting will be held on May 14. Father Joe led the council in closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully Submitted,
Claire Budnik
Council Secretary