

Minutes of St. Jerome Pastoral Council Meeting for October 18, 2010

In attendance: Father Dave, Regina Flaherty, Tom Wagner, Greg Vetter, Katie Corasaniti, Beth Olson, Kathy Coyne, Tom Rietano, Dick Maiberger, Pat Olson, Florence Loch, John Davis, Alex Sgoutas

Dick Maiberger led the council in Prayer.

Men's Ministry Presentation

Alex Sgoutas spoke on behalf of the Men's Ministry. Alex directed the council to the Parish website and advised and encouraged its use. Alex suggested that as ministries come to the monthly meetings to discuss their needs and wants, to eliminate repetition, council members should review the website which is helpful in describing the basis and motive of each ministry. Parish members, as a whole, should be encouraged to visit the website to learn about the various ministries and programs St. Jerome offers.

Alex moved on to explain some basic fundamentals of the group. The men's group meets on Saturdays at 7am and hopes to increase their involvement of thirty members to encompass a more intergenerational group of men to stimulate the discussion amount different levels of faith.

The group was founded and started by Bob Saraceni who later moved. Bob still participates, but also has a full time occupation starting and growing similar men's ministries in other Connecticut Catholic Parishes.

At this time the core members of the group include Stephan Grozinger, Joe O'Callaghan Jr, Bill Mottolese, Father Dave, Father Mike, and Alex. There are no appointed leaders of the Men's group. Members choose to become more actively involved and lead in different activities. The core team guides the group loosely to encourage an open and meaningful participation and discussion.

It was suggested that perhaps Jean Tarrant could be asked to attend a Pastoral Council meeting discuss the Women's Council.

Future Ministry Presentations

For future ministries coming to talk at Parish Council meetings, the following requirements were proposed:

- Set time limit 10-15 minutes
- Ask for a brief description of the ministry
- Prior to their presentation, share with the speaker the description on the website and ask for their approval or if they would like to expand on any description during their presentation
- Ask the interaction between different committees and how this can be improved

The idea was supported that a member from a different ministry each month can present on the pulpit a truncated speech so the Parish is aware of the various ministries' missions and needs.

Revised Minutes Procedure

Katie will route minutes electronically up to a week after the Parish Council meeting. Members will only respond to Katie's attention with corrections, comments or discrepancies. Katie will present the final minutes at the following Parish Council meeting for final approval and will send to Dan Loch for the website.

50th Anniversary Report

Florence summarized the various 50th Anniversary events:

- The Parish Festival was a success. The method of hiring a caterer allowed for shorter volunteer shifts so that everyone could enjoy the festivities. Moving forward, a caterer will again be used next year.

Pastor's Report

- Attendance at Sunday Mass has returned to somewhat normal after a summer lull.
- TOTAL attendance has also increased with roughly 70-75 teens attending thus far this school year.
- This year's REACH program is also off to a good start. The 7th and 8th graders meet once a month on Sunday afternoons prior to Sunday 6pm Mass. The first Sunday (September 17th) went well.
- After Julie Coyne presented on *Julie's Kids* at the Sunday Masses (October 17th), the Parish raised \$21,700.
- The Finance Committee meeting on October 19th will discuss how to generate more money as the offertory is not producing enough to aid in the Church's current deficit resulting from the aforementioned summer lull. The use of Faith Direct will be encouraged in the future to maintain donations even in absence.
- Father Dave will send a letter to the Parish requesting consideration to donated to three important ventures:
 - new lighting in the parking lot
 - the cost for adding Joe O'Callaghan to the staff for co-directing TOTAL with Pat Olson
 - enhancing the landscape at the entrance of the Church—
Father Dave to work with John Costa to form a plan at cost for plants and labor and will seek approval from the finance committee for \$5,000 towards the project (in conjunction with contributions from parishioners).

- Pat Spear, a Catholic community organizer, is working to organize and recruit Fairfield & New Haven Country parishes to participate in an interfaith organization (Connecticut Sponsoring Committee) to address major community concerns spanning religious denominations. Father Dave and Dan Loch attended a convention in Bridgeport which was attended by 700 people from 13 congregations. The committee agreed to work on three main issues: predatory banking policies; healthcare, and education. Pat Spear is coming to speak with the Social Concerns Committee to discuss St. Jerome's possible involvement in this organization.
- Jean Tarrant suggested we have an informational meeting regarding misconceptions towards the Islamic Community. Dick Maiberger has agreed to reach out to a contact at his job to speak to any interested members of the Parish on November 10th.

2011 Parish Raffle

Karen Christensen is heading the parish raffle this year which will consist of several changes:

- Tickets for the Raffle will be \$50 each
- The Raffle will not be held at All Saints but instead on site at St. Jerome.
- A car will not be raffled off this year. Instead, the prizes will consist of a \$12,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 cash prize.
- A caterer will serve hors d'oeuvres
- The proposed date is presently June 25, 2011 from 2-4p.m. Parish Council discussed whether it would make sense to have Raffle after Saturday 5p.m. Mass, instead, to increase attendance and hopefully host preferable weather for a tented event.
- A silent auction with donated items was suggested and encouraged to increase proceeds from this event
- Ultimately, the Pastoral Planning Committee will work to firm ideas and details for this event.

Sub-committee Reports

Building and Grounds Committee

John Davis, head of the Building and Grounds Committee, passed out a flyer detailing a brief description and anticipated goals of the committee. The first meeting for the Building and Grounds Committee will be Tuesday, October 25, 2010 at 7:30p.m. The scope of the Building and Grounds Committee will include brainstorming means to generate/increase money and revenue in terms of enhancing St. Jerome's. Once the needs and plausible enhancements are agreed upon, a 5 year plan of physical improvement to the Church grounds will be formed and presented. The committee will reach out to Parishioners listed in the

directory based on their trade as appropriately applied to possible responsibilities for different projects.

Pastoral Planning

The Pastoral Planning Committee combined with the planning committee for the in-house Lenten Retreat for Parishioners. Father Dave will make a pulpit announcement to encourage participation in the Pastoral Planning Committee to move forward with Parish events for 2011.

Closing

- Social Concerns Ministry will present at the November Parish Council meeting.
- The November Parish Council meeting will be held November 8, 2010.

Father Dave concluded the meeting with Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katie Corasaniti
Secretary