

Minutes of St. Jerome Pastoral Council Meeting

September 13, 2010

In Attendance: Father Dave, Father Joe, John Turchick, John Davis, Regina Flaherty, Greg Vetter, Tom Wagner, Beth Olson, Pat Olson, Moira Barber, Bob DeSimone, Florence Loch, Dick Maiberger, Alex Sgoutas, Tom Rietano

Regina led the council in prayer. Minutes from June 14, 2010 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Pastoral Council Housekeeping – Meeting Minutes

A new method for delivery and acceptance of Minutes of Parish Council Meetings was discussed. Regina proposed and the council agreed that Katie will create and circulate the meeting's minutes within a week following the meeting via email to the Council. Council members will have a week's deadline to reply to Katie's attention with corrections, additions or simple acceptance. Katie will follow up with any Council member who has not responded. Thereafter, upon acceptance from the majority of Council members, Katie will forward the approved minutes to Dan Loch's attention for posting on the Parish Website.

Pastor's Report

- REACH starts on October 3, 2010 – very late compared to previous terms due to the September weekend events of the 50th Anniversary Mass with Bishop Lori and the Parish Festival.
- Pat Olson has been a cherished Youth Minister of TOTAL for the past few years. Joe O'Callaghan is joining forces with Pat for this school year to split the position to alleviate the enormous responsibility of the role. Moving forward, it will be on the Pastoral Planning's agenda to elect and welcome a replacement for Pat to work as Youth Minister in a full time position for the 2011-2012 school year.
- The 50th Anniversary Mass is on Sunday, September 19th at 11:15. Bishop Lori will concelebrate. Thanks to some final volunteers during this council meeting, everything is in order for this event including volunteers for both the Mass and the reception.
- The St. Jerome Festival is Sunday, September 26, 2010. The theme of the Festival is Medieval and the entertainment committee is working diligently to embrace this theme. The event will be deliciously catered and thus the ticket prices have increased slightly. Tickets are \$15 per Adult and \$10 per child. Parishioners are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance as tickets purchased at the gate are more expensive. Mass will be held at the park at 4:00 p.m.

Parish 50th Anniversary

Later in the evening, Florence Loch gave a full report on the 50th Anniversary Events thus far:

- The Golf tournament was a success (aside from the heat!).
- The baseball game had an attendance of 40+ people and went very well.

A HUGE thank you to Dan and Florence Loch from the Pastoral Council for their tremendous efforts in organizing the various 50th Anniversary celebrations!

Creation of Subcommittees

Father Dave presented the need to create several subcommittees to oversee and plan forth coming events and projects geared towards spiritual and physical improvements of the church as well as overall parishioner involvement.

In-House Lenten Retreat

The first coming events idea proposed is an in-house Lenten retreat. There are several different models this retreat may follow. The models vary in length, dates, time, and organization of the substance of the retreat. A committee is needed to organize all the details of this retreat. Overall, it is anticipated the retreat will follow a talk-centered agenda similar to the annual teen retreat, Emmaus. The retreat is for all ages and hopefully participation from several parishioner generations will attend.

Beautification of Grounds Project

Regina presented a truncated version of the proposal she originally presented at the previous meeting on 6/14/2010. This new proposal is considered Phase I of the Entrance Improvement Project in honor of the parish 50th Anniversary. A committee is needed to organize funding for this project as well as to determine what changes are feasible, organize volunteers and to continue to beautification of our Parish's grounds throughout several development stages.

Several different ideas were discussed over what specifically could be done to the grounds versus any interior improvements that can be made within funding means, bearing in mind that diocesan approval is needed for projects of a certain size. The committee will focus on all of these options and determine a five year plan to present to the Council and the Parish for means of beautifying and improving St. Jerome's interior and exterior property.

John Davis volunteered to head an overall Building and Grounds Committee. He will organize an initial meeting including an announcement at all Masses hopefully to garner volunteers.

Pastoral Planning

Dick Maiberger and Father Dave have already worked with a small team of members in an ad hoc Pastoral Planning Committee, however,

Father Dave hopes to expand this committee in members and responsibility. Similar to the Building & Grounds Committee that is creating a five year plan for the physical improvement of St. Jerome, the Pastoral Planning Committee will create a five year plan for the spiritual improvement of the parish and for increasing parishioner involvement.

It was suggested that it would be useful to combine the Pastoral Planning Committee with the Lenten Retreat Committee as they coincide with the mission of spiritual development among parishioners.

The discussion of a Pastoral Planning committee transitioned into a discussion of the mentoring of future leaders of parish organizations. All the organizations or ministries of the parish operate independently and separate from each other. Several ideas are presented to learn the needs of each organization and ministry and to hear suggestions/thoughts/concerns of the overall parish. Some suggestions:

- ✓ invite a different committee a month to the Parish Council meeting to present the mission of their ministry and their various ideas or needs from the parish
- ✓ have a bi-annual meeting (pizza party sponsored by the council?) for all ministries to come together to get on a similar pace with parish needs and ideas to move forward in a more unified fashion.

Pastoral Council “Open Door” policy

It was agreed that the “Open Door” policy of the Pastoral Council should be reinforced. Parishioners should be welcomed to attend as listeners. It is suggested that a reminder be placed in the bulletin prior to monthly meetings.

Old Business and New Business

- During closing thoughts (Old Business and New Business), Father Dave alerted members to the availability of the Council Bylaws.
- Also, Bob DeSimone asked about an appropriate timeline for the Pancake Breakfast. Having the breakfast in February was successful in the past, so it is suggested that instead of two breakfasts we hold one in February to ensure attendance. Official date is TBD.

Finally, Father Joe ended the evening with prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Corasaniti
Secretary