

## **Minutes of St. Jerome Pastoral Council Meeting of 12/12/05**

**In Attendance:** Father David Blanchfield, Bob Olson, Dan Loch, John Wagner, Erin Halsey, Pat Hauptman, Kathy Coyne, Ronalee Grant, Tony Petraia, Claire Budnik, Bramwell Wood, Judd Mellott, Judi Dennehy, and Kathy Jaeger.

Bramwell led the council in prayer and reflection in the church before convening in the parish hall. Minutes from the November 14 meeting were read and accepted.

### **Pastor's Report:**

**St. Augustine Medal of Service:** Bishop Lori established this award to honor the exemplary service of one lay member from each parish in the diocese. Father David stated that the task to choose just one recipient was enormously difficult and acknowledged there are many deserving parishioners who selflessly give of their time and talents to our parish. After serious reflection, he decided the St. Jerome award will be presented to Nick Amente. Nick is a long-time head usher and Eucharistic minister and without being asked, makes it his routine to arrive at St. Jerome at 7AM on Sundays to ready the church for Mass.

**Giving Tree:** 90 of Julie Coyne's Education and Hope children and 33 Christian Community Action families will be the recipients of the record number of gifts placed under our Advent giving tree this year.

**Education and Hope:** Father David requested that we consider officially endorsing Julie Coyne and her good works ministry in Guatemala as part of our parish mission. He shared that Julie gave \$1000 out of her Education and Hope funds to purchase food for a neighboring Guatemalan village that lost all of its crops due to the devastating floods. Without hesitation, the council unanimously reaffirmed Julie as a special missionary of St. Jerome and further, approved a motion to reimburse and match her \$1000 contribution to the village.

**Parish Directory:** The committee is still working on final touches.

**TOTAL:** Father David officially announced Judi Dennehy will be retiring at the end of this school year and acknowledged her tremendous dedication to the youth of our parish. Judi in turn, expressed her deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve and she read an excerpt from a 1989 edition of the *St. Jerome Translator* which details her mission statement as youth minister. When she finished reading, all present emphatically agreed her mission was beautifully accomplished. Committees were established to assist Father Dave in the search for her successor as well as the planning for her retirement party. Father Dave, Judi, Bob Olson, Pat Hauptman, Judd Mellott, Bramwell Wood, and Kathy Coyne will head the search process. Erin Halsey, Claire Budnik, Ronalee Grant, Bramwell Wood, and Terry Petraia will assist in the party planning.

### **New Business:**

Bramwell Wood distributed information on AmeriCares Homefront, a community based home repair program that provides quality of life repairs at no cost to homeowners in need and proposed this as a service project for the parish. The deadline for submitting our application is December 30 and a \$2,000 outlay for building materials will be due January 13. All agreed this project would dovetail nicely with our Generations of Faith ministry and unanimously approved the project. Tentative date is May 6.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 9. Council adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire Budnik