

Minutes of the St. Jerome Pastoral Council Meeting of 9/26/05

In Attendance: Father David Blanchfield, Father Joe Palacino, Bob Olson, Anne Groener, Kathy Jaeger, Ronalee Grant, Pat Hauptman, Claire Budnik, Dean Finch, Bramwell Wood, Richard Vicenzi, Tony Petraia, Judi Dennehy, John Wagner, Kathy Coyne, and Erin Halsey.

Father David led the council in prayer and reflection in the church before convening in the parish hall. Minutes from the 6/20/05 meeting were read and accepted.

Pastor's Report

Parish Directory: Bob DeSimone will have a meeting on 9/28 at 7:00 to work on the finishing touches.

Church Roof: Approximately 240 families responded to Father David's appeal letter. These contributions coupled with the raffle proceeds will pay in full for the new roof. Work expected to commence in October.

September Special Collections: \$8600 was collected for Catholic Charities Katrina Relief Effort. \$15,500 was collected for Education and Hope (Julie's Kids) and the parish added another \$2,000 for a total of \$17,500.

Social Concerns Committee: Committee is gearing up for their first meeting this year on 9/26.

Update on Generations of Faith: Two sessions will be held on 10/16 and 10/23 and will take the place of the usual Reach and Total classes for those weekends. Kathy Coyne reported 140 households totaling 366 people have signed up to date. We are still waiting for response from several Reach families. Deadline for sign up is October 2. The GOF team has been working throughout the summer to prepare for this event.

Reach and Total: Both are off to a good start. Judi reported that 85 teens were in attendance on TOTAL opening night and 70 were present the second week.

Parish Fundraising: The Parish Finance Committee recently met with *Cunneen Parish Fundraising Services*, a Hamden, CT organization that has implemented thousands of successful Catholic fundraising campaigns over the last 22 years and raised over two billion dollars for Catholic objectives nationwide. For a flat fee investment of \$10,000 the Finance Committee has enlisted their services to implement a stewardship program to attract parish families who are not financially contributing. St. Jerome currently has 1,236 families on the books. Approximately 400 families contribute regularly but there is no contribution record on file for the remaining families. By enlisting the services of CPFS, we have the potential to realize four times our investment in parish revenue. But more important, we gain the opportunity to evangelize and reach out to the families we have lost touch with and welcome them back to our parish. Initially, a focus group will be appointed to brainstorm with CPFS for ideas to reach out to those parishioners. Subsequently, a series of five mailings highlighting our many parish ministries will be sent out by CPFS.

New Business:

Parish Renovations: Father Dave explained the procedure for obtaining diocesan approval for any future renovations to the church regardless of cost. All renovation requests need to be

submitted through the Diocese of Bridgeport Sacred Arts Commission and involves processing and filing extensive documents. The process is tedious and time consuming. Recognizing the need to renovate St. Jerome at some point in the future, Father Dave suggested we be proactive and start preliminary paperwork now. Bramwell Wood, Tony Petraia and John Wagner offered to serve on this committee.

Father Joe closed the meeting with prayer. The next meeting will be held on 11/14. Council adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully Submitted,
Claire Budnik