

Minutes – December 9, 2008

Topics of Discussion

- building improvements
- elections for new Council Officers coming in Jan.
- Pastoral Plan Objectives – Worship

In attendance: John Loucaides, Joe Kursch, Ellen Marshall, Lorraine Jacukiewicz, Bob Giesey, Sandy Klohr, Susan Weber, Pat Ditzel, Jim Sadler, Fr. DeAscanis, Laura Loucaides, Kathy Johnson

- I. Report of the Pastor
 - a. Advent schedule going well
 - b. Christmas mass schedule will remain the same as in years past
 - c. Weekend of January 17-18: someone from the coordinating council will speak at each of the masses, to update the parish
 - d. Bathroom renovation: the diocese is giving us the requested \$6,000 (from the Lenten Appeal); the contract is about ready to be signed; two different contracts – one for upstairs, one for downstairs
 - i. Funding – savings, Archdiocese, and special collection
 - e. thermostat needs to be replaced to prevent unauthorized people from adjusting it
 - f. meeting with the officers of the council; discussed the pastoral plan and set-up of goals and objectives
 - g. staff has been making an effort to update the STAND files; the diocese is now auditing parishes to check that they are up to date
 - i. this must be a parish mission; the staff cannot do it by themselves; every ministry leader must keep up with this and make sure that the volunteers have received the STAND training and are up to date on documentation
 - h. Parish Pro-Life Committee will organize buses for the March for Life in D.C.; the day will begin with mass, tour the Basilica, and then attend the March
- II. Report of the Chair
 - a. In January, we need to identify someone to run the committee to help identify new Council members for our upcoming election
 - b. We originally agreed to have an election for officers each year, and we are now overdue – we will do this at our first Council meeting in January
- III. Report from the Coordinating Council
 - a. Reviewed the bulletin insert and speech that will be presented to parishioners in January
 - b. A suggestion was made to have the priests circulate a bit amongst the cluster parishes, to allow for familiarity with all the priests of the cluster; this is not likely to happen routinely, because the structure of the Church is

set up so that the priest is the spiritual father of the parish(es) that he is the head of

- c. The council would like something in place in the event that a priest is unavailable for mass at the last minute (in case of illness, emergency, etc.); this will be left up to the pastoral leaders

IV. Pastoral Planning Overview

- a. What is the flow of the parish?
- b. The commissions and liaisons work to develop the goals and objectives of the pastoral plan
- c. How this works still needs to be developed – is it feasible to be done over the telephone? It may require a short meeting, etc.
- d. When we develop goals, we need to have commitment from the ministries to implement the goals – when someone comes up with an idea, the next question needs to be, “Who is going to do this?” If no one is able or willing to implement it, then we need to come up with a different goal
- e. goals should be specific, concrete, measurable, and limited in scope in order to be achievable
- f. we do not necessarily need a specific number of goals and objectives; ten that we can achieve is better than fifty that we can’t
- g. individual ministry goals are the day to day operation; these are not the same as pastoral plan goals; the pastoral plan looks at everything together as the big picture
- h. what about the amount of work that falls on the liaisons?
 - i. Either they are presented with a list of names (and maybe phone numbers) and have to contact each person individually, or we need to come up with better, more accurate lists; when one person has to coordinate with five or ten ministry leaders, is this really feasible? We need a better way to communicate. A list-serve was suggested; the parish does need to come up with very accurate lists.
 - ii. The work of the council is to coordinate the ministries
 - iii. We need more organization to be put into place
 - iv. Another Ministry Fair?

V. Pastoral Plan Objectives

- a. Youth Mass – the emphasis must be on the youth serving the parish, and getting them connected, but not that the parish is serving them by having the youth mass – this requires an element of training, to make sure that it is done well; commitment is also an issue
 - i. Another option – get the youth involved in specific ministries on a regular basis first, and then possibly roll that over into a youth mass – looking at the Confirmation age group
 - ii. Ask the youth about interest in participation and get training coordinated
 - iii. Without a viable youth ministry, is this really feasible?

- iv. Put something in the bulletin and ask for input? Too much lag time?
 - v. Is this going to be the best way to increase mass attendance? Is this the best objective for the moment?
 - vi. Do we need to table this until we have a youth minister? Yes.
- b. Incorporating families as greeters at mass
 - i. This needs to be done delicately, as greeting is more difficult than it seems. Perhaps we need to revive the Welcome Committee as a whole
 - c. Promote reverence at mass
 - i. A gentle reminder from the pulpit – Fr. DeAscanis would like some notes or suggestions
 - ii. An insert for the bulletin – this led to some discussion about offending people
 - iii. Parents accompany children to the restrooms
 - 1. have the usher send the kids back to their parents
 - 2. this could be incorporated in one and two; may not need to be a separate objectives
 - 3. this is a safety issue – children should not be alone downstairs
 - 4. the new bathroom upstairs will require more thought and discussion
 - 5. is this a safety issue, or a reverence issue? Can cause disorder, and be a problem waiting to happen
 - d. Encourage special devotions
 - i. Obj – advertise events – is the goal to develop new devotionals, or encourage participation at the current devotions?

VI. Minutes from November

- a. The ministry of delivering meals for Our Daily Bread is a huge undertaking, and may not be feasible for our small parish
- b. Minutes approved