

## **Pastoral Council Minutes September 7, 2010**

**Attendees:** Matt Bolton, Gerry Deehan, John Dorger, Chris Gebhardt, Kevin Kohls, Ken Krusling, Debbie Meinhardt, Anne Marie Moushey, Jane Mueninghoff, Barb Utrata, Joe Werling, Fr. Don West, and Mary Ann Lampe (scribe).

**Preliminaries:** The Council Meeting opened with the Pastoral Council prayer at 7:00 pm. The reflection was led by Matt Bolton.

### **Agenda Items:**

- 1) **Approval of minutes from May meeting – All** The minutes were approved as written.
  
- 2) **Discern Council leadership-Fr. Don** to set the tone for discernment, Fr. Don referred to St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians. I look at Pastoral Council and see that there are many parts but only one body. No one part is more important than any other. Our task this evening is to discern someone to lead up Council for the year. Chris commended Debbie for a job well done. He nominated Debbie for facilitator, who responded that she would be happy to be co-facilitator due to the time required by her festival duties. Facilitator organizes the Agenda, oversees the bread deliveries, and facilitates the meetings. Co-facilitator organizes the election, finalizes the minutes, etc. Debbie nominated Jane Mueninghoff for facilitator, seconded by John Dorger. Jane appreciates the nomination, leaving it up to a consensus of the PC members present. Jane, however, does not want to coordinate the bread deliveries. She asks that another member of council coordinate the bread deliveries. Debbie commented that if, as a group, we wish to do this, then as a group we need to work on this. We need someone to work with Charlie Hake on this. Kevin Kohls volunteered to coordinate the bread deliveries. Consequently, Jane will serve as facilitator with Debbie as co-facilitator.
  
- 3) **Annual Items – All** Debbie passed copies of all the items below.
  - a. **Calendar 2010 – 2011**
  - b. **New Council Roster**
  - c. **Bylaws**
  - d. **Pastoral Council Covenants** signed by all members present
  
- 4) **Matt Bolton - Walk for Life** Matt was approached by a parishioner who would like the parish to participate in the "Walk for Life." The request was made too late for us to join this year. Matt is asking for opinions on the parish sponsoring "Pregnancy Care of Cincinnati" which provides education on alternatives to abortion. The "Walk for Life" is to earn funds for their mission. This year the walk is Sept. 11 at Winton Woods. Other churches in the area do support it. One of the things that they are looking for is the ability to make the info available to parishioners and have a sign-up after Masses. Matt told the parishioner that maybe next year, and that he would bring it to Council's

attention. Should the parish sponsor this as a whole, or get another group, such as K of C, to sponsor it? Fr. Don – this would happen during the time that we are requesting festival workers. Anne Marie – there are many organizations that could ask for our support; we need guidelines as to what we will help and what we won't. Fr. Don – we need to be careful not to overwhelm the gathering space. We could put a blurb in the bulletin with a contact person for those who may be interested. Debbie – I agree with Anne Marie, we could be opening a Pandora's box. Matt – what I am hearing is, if someone asks for sponsorship, we say we can give you space in the bulletin and on the website. Ken – suggested a blanket letter to pass to parishioners when they make a request. Jane – contact Joan S. to put it to staff which requests to put in the bulletin and on the website. Fr. Don – before we do anything, we need to call downtown to see if an organization is one we can work with.

**Fr. Don's Comments** I would like to offer a suggestion that as Pastoral Council we write a thank you letter to Fr. Mark for the \$20,000 he donated for our debt reduction. Any future sales of his book here will also benefit St. John's. All PC members should sign the letter on behalf of the parish. November 27, 2011 is when the new Missal will go into effect. We will offer workshops along the way, but the only way this is going to catch on is when we actually pray the prayers. It's how we (Pastoral Council) perceive it and talk about it to the community that will determine how it is accepted. There will be prayer cards of some form for us to follow. It's time to rally around the positive aspect of this.

At one of the next three meetings, a member of the Priests' Personnel Board will come out to explain the process of choosing a Pastor.

Jodi Bender, who took the place of Kathy Guenther, has been in the hospital and will not be returning to work for some time.

I don't look to change a whole lot as Pastor, everything is working well. Instead of a Pastoral Council retreat day, I would like to do a goal setting day, so that if someone else comes in; we can say "these are our hopes and dreams for the parish." Are we doing the things we are supposed to be doing well? What do you hear and observe from other people? Those are the kinds of things we need to hear from Council. I'm okay not having an associate; we have had help with Masses from several priests. Jane – I like the "goal setting" idea. Ken – liked your message about the missal. I think having new words will make us stop and think. To view the new missal, Google "U.S. Conference of Bishops", click on "missal." The biggest changes are for the presider.

#### **6) Adjournment and Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving – Jane Mueninghoff**

Jane led the closing prayer and we adjourned at 8:25 pm.

**Next Meeting: Monday October 4, 2010**

- **Reflection** – need volunteer
- **Prayer of Thanksgiving** - need volunteer

