

# **ST. JAMES PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES**

## **AUGUST 11, 2008**

**Opening Prayer:** Diane Dolak

**Members Present:** Fr. Tom Albers, Fr. Timothy Armbruster, John Alvey, Mary George, Cathy Teague, Ann Tucker, Dave McDonald, Jim Thornton, Julia Alsobrook, Diane Dolak, Phil Baumert, Steve Wilson

**Members Absent:** Joe Ross, Lisa Richardson

**Guests Present:** Jim Newell

**Additions to Agenda:** Representative on St. James School Board from Pastoral Council.

**Welcome of New Members:** Chairman John Alvey welcomed new Council members Phil Baumert and Steve Wilson.

**Election of Council Officers:** Chairman Alvey called for a vote for new officers for the next year. By secret ballot, Dave McDonald was elected Chairperson and Cathy Teague was elected Vice-Chairperson. The position of Council Secretary was not filled. John Alvey recommended having a formal commissioning ceremony at Mass for the Pastoral Council. After discussion, it was decided that the commissioning will take place on Sunday, September 7, 2008, at the 9:15 a.m. Mass. All Council members were requested to attend.

**New Chairman Assumes Control of the Meeting:** Following the election of officers, Past Chairman John Alvey turned control of the meeting over to the new chairman, Dave McDonald.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ann Tucker moved that the minutes of the June 4, 2008 Council meeting be approved. Cathy Teague seconded the motion. The Council voted to approve the minutes without change.

**Old Business:**

- **Discerning God's Call for the Parish Goal #5 (Parish improvement project):** Father Tom reported that the project is completed except for finishing some landscaping that has been contracted out. One of the projects that School Principal Molly Doherty suggested to the Eagle Scouts this year is to complete the outdoor basketball court. There is just half a court out there now. Jim Newell said that the final punch list for the project would be reviewed on August 14, 2008, and if all action items have been completed, a final payment will be made to the contractor. A question was asked about the parking lot extension project. Due to higher

priority requirements that project has been put on hold indefinitely until sufficient funds become available to proceed.

- **Parish feast day celebration report / Father Timothy's welcome:** Mary George reported that the turn out was good and the hat contest was a lot of fun. About 150 people attended and welcomed Father Timothy. The Council expressed its appreciation for the food support the event received from Jeff at HyVee and Lou at Price Chopper. Members were encouraged to send a thank you note to Jeff and Lou and to thank them the next time they see them.
- **Fr. Matt's Going Away Reception:** This event was very well attended. Finger food, cake and punch were provided and everyone had the opportunity to say goodbye to Father Matt.

### **New Business:**

- **Appointment of persons to a joint committee discussed at the meeting with the Administration / Finance Committee:** Jim Newell gave a report of some of the things that had been discussed during the joint meeting of the Pastoral Council and the Administration / Finance Committee. Most of the discussion centered on finding ways to increase parish revenues. Jim updated the Council on progress being made to streamline the parish SCRIP program known as the HOPE and DREAM Program. Tom Pfeiffer is heading an effort to combine these programs into one program and to improve marketing, publicity and sales. More volunteers will be needed to help sell HOPE Gift Cards as the program grows. The Council discussed various ideas on how to improve this program and how to encourage parishioners to contribute more to the support of the parish.
- **Departure of past chairperson:** John Alvey expressed his appreciation to the Council for its hard work and for the support he had received during his tenure as chairperson and then departed the meeting.
- **Joint Committee:** Chairman McDonald returned to the question of appointing two persons to a joint committee with Administration and Finance. Julia Alsobrook and Mary George volunteered to serve on this committee and the Council concurred.
- **Pastoral Council Representative to the School Board:** Julia Alsobrook discussed this issue and asked for guidance from Father Tom. He said that, while he tries to attend all the meetings, he would also like to have a member of the Pastoral Council attend. Julia volunteered to be the Council representative to the school board and the Council concurred.

### **Ministry Reports:**

- **Youth:** No Report
- **Activities:** Mary George reported that the Faith and Justice Group will have a new program called Just Skills. It's through the diocese and deals with practices and tools for parish social ministry. It will provide training for people who are interested in participating in social ministry. Jim Thornton reported on his efforts to improve the coordination and scheduling of volunteers for the St. Mary's Food Kitchen.
- **Groups:** No Report
- **Liturgy:** No Report. However, a concern was expressed regarding the number of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist scheduled at the 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses. The numbers of ministers and the flow of people coming up for communion need to be studied to find a more efficient way of distributing communion.
- **Education:** No Report

**Pastor's Comments:** Fr. Tom Albers said that the parish has been approached by a cellular telephone company about leasing some parish property for a tower. Their request has been referred to the diocese. If the diocese approves the proposal, it will then be brought to the Council for consideration. He also reported on visitors who made presentations and appeals at Masses this summer. Parishioners were very generous in their response. Representatives of two more organizations will visit this fall to inform parishioners of their activities.

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting:** Realignment of Pastoral Council ministry assignments.

**Next Meeting:** September 8, 2008, 7:00 p.m., at St. James School

**Closing Prayer:** Diane Dolak

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Thomas J. Pfeiffer, Recording Secretary