

ST. JAMES PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

DECEMBER 15, 2008

Opening Prayer: Cathy Teague

Members Present: Father Tom Albers, Father Timothy Armbruster, Cathy Teague, Mary George, Joe Ross, Lisa Richardson, Julia Alsobrook, Diane Dolak, Ann Tucker, Phil Baumert, Steve Wilson

Members Absent: Dave McDonald, Jim Thornton

Guests Present: Jim Newell

Additions to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: Cathy Teague, Pastoral Council Vice Chairperson, called for a motion to approve the minutes. Joe Ross moved that the minutes be approved. Cathy Teague seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Old Business: Update on HOPE Gift Card Program. Tom Pfeiffer reported that the program continues to grow. He distributed a report covering the last four weeks of sales. Profits are averaging five percent of sales and family participation is averaging nine percent of registered households. More volunteers are needed to sell the gift cards after weekend Masses. Persons interested in helping should contact Anita Holt at 781-0758. She has volunteered to manage the HOPE volunteer program.

New Business:

Discussion of St. James website. Concern was voiced regarding outdated information on the website. Discussion of how to keep the website updated followed. It was determined that council members should contact the various ministries they oversee and request that each ministry that has any information on the website appoint one person to review the information monthly and inform Howard Henry, webmaster, of the changes that need to be made.

Ministry Reports:

Youth: Lisa Richardson reported that Bobbi Roman has returned from a conference she recently attended with many new ideas. Cecilia Richardson has had nothing but the highest praise for the students who helped make the Glory Be Tea a great success.

Activities: Mary George reminded everyone that January 18th is donut Sunday, sponsored by the pastoral council. All members should plan to attend so parishioners get to know them. Mary praised Linda Gross for the wonderful job she did with organizing the Advent giving tree program this year. There were 786 tags (80 more than last year). Five different agencies received gifts as a result of this program and the generosity of our parishioners. Linda Gross has volunteered to chair this program again next year and already has a couple of people to help her. Numerous calls of appreciation are being received in the parish office for the gifts received.

Groups: Steve Wilson has been in touch with his groups. He said that the Family Life Group and the Child Care Group are no longer active. Phil Baumert commented on last month's parish cleanup day and said that the boy scouts were a great help. Ann Tucker advised the council that the Rosary Group has a Christmas luncheon tomorrow, December 16th. The Altar Society will have a January bingo to raise money for the parish. The Precious Blood Companions had their Christmas dinner last night, December 14th. Ann said that the Knights of Columbus are happy with their new monthly meeting place in the teachers' lounge.

Liturgy: Cathy Teague reported that the extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist attended a meeting on November 17th where Nancy Streeter covered changes in their procedures for assisting in the distribution of Holy Communion. Phil Baumert said that there is an immediate need for more ushers. He said that two people have come forward to coordinate Mass servers. He reviewed the Mass schedule for Christmas and New Year's Day. Monday, December 22nd will be the day to decorate the church for Christmas. Everyone is welcome to come and help. The choir is preparing a special program for Christmas Mass. The priests' vestments were discussed. Mary George said that Meredith Klamm may be willing to sew some new vestments if patterns can be obtained.

Education: Julia Alsobrook told the council that the Feed Your Faith class was very well received. About 50 people attended including quite a few new families. Upcoming presentations include one by Abbot Gregory Polan from Conception Abbey on January 14th. He will speak on the Liturgy of the Hours. Biagio Mazza will be here for two days in April to present a talk about Jesus as seen through the light of the times and the culture in which Jesus lived. Then, a Mardi Gras celebration is planned before Lent begins. Monday night's First Reconciliation service was very well attended. December 17th is the Communal Penance Service. Third through fifth grade students will attend the service. Julia said that Cecilia Richardson would like some feedback regarding the parish newsletter (The Network). Discussion took place within the council regarding the frequency of publication, intended readership, and cost of production and mailing. More study is needed to determine what should be done with the newsletter in the future. Finally, Julia talked about the recent auction

and bazaar. Ideas on how to do a better job of publicizing these events and making them accessible to more people were discussed.

Fundraising: Nothing to report.

Pastor's Comments: Father Albers said that the parish continues to struggle with its finances. He feels that parishioners have a good positive attitude and he hopes that the generosity of those attending Christmas and New Year's Services will help the money situation.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None at this time.

Next Meeting: January 12, 2009

Closing Prayer: Cathy Teague led the closing prayer. Ann Tucker will lead the prayers at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Thomas J. Pfeiffer, Recording Secretary