

ST. JAMES PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

Opening Prayer: Julia Alsobrook

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

Members Absent: Dave McDonald, Jim Thornton, and Diane Dolak

Guests Present: Charles Koesterer, Jim Newell, Ken Tajchman and Judy Keisling

Approval of Minutes: Vice-Chairperson Cathy Teague requested a motion to approve the January 12, 2009 minutes as written. Julia Alsobrook moved that the minutes be approved and Mary George seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without change by acclamation.

Old Business:

- The Boy Scouts had asked for time on the agenda for a representative to present information regarding a fund-raiser breakfast. However, no representative attended the meeting.
- Tom Pfeiffer presented a PowerPoint briefing on the HOPE Gift Card Program. The program was produced by Judy Keisling.

New Business:

- **Discussion of meeting with The Church Development Foundation (TCDF):** Father Albers reported that after consideration of the presentation given by TCDF, a decision has been made to move forward with conducting a feasibility study to measure parish interest in proceeding with a fund-raising campaign. Letters will be sent to 100 prospective interviewees with a case statement and an invitation to respond to a personal interview on February 11. A newsletter and survey will be mailed to all parishioners on February 12. Attendees at next weekend's Masses will be told about this initial step and about the survey. Interviews of about 50 parishioners chosen from the 100 who were sent invitation letters will be conducted February 19 to February 22. Responses to the survey will be due by February 23. An initial report with an executive summary will be sent to the Pastoral Council, Finance Committee and the Stewardship Council on March 5. On March 11, an evening committee meeting will be held to present the full report. Following that, a determination will be made on whether or not to proceed with a fund-raising campaign.

The cost of conducting the feasibility study is approximately \$11,000.

- **Discussion of floor/tile separation in school entrance:** Jim Newell said that due to the age of the tile and wear and tear, the tile will need to be replaced this summer. The cost is estimated to be approximately \$2,000.
- **Community Garden at St. James (Fr. Timothy):** Ken Tajchman presented a proposal for a St. James Parish Community Garden. He has had previous discussions with Father Timothy about the idea of a parish garden. The purpose of the garden would be to nourish a positive sense of community and togetherness. The garden would provide educational opportunities for children and adults alike. It could become a source of fresh produce for local charities and would draw the community closer together. Discussion took place regarding requirements and expense of starting the garden, irrigation, location, zoning and other issues. Mr. Tajchman offered to contact the city about zoning.

Ministry Reports:

Youth: The Youth Group and Confirmation Class recently attended a very powerful retreat. Attendance at the sixth through eighth grade Youth Group meetings has been very good. The Mardi Gras celebration tickets will be on sale in the church narthex after all Masses on the next two weekends.

Activities: Mary George reported that the donut Sunday sponsored by The Pastoral Council went well. The Love Inc. benefit concert was held yesterday at Second Baptist Church. The St. James Adult Choir directed by Danny Baker was outstanding. Spring cleanup day will be March 21. Phil Baumert will supervise outside work while Mary George will oversee inside cleaning.

Groups: Ann Tucker said the Altar Society's bingo fund raiser netted about \$1,200 profit. The Altar Society sponsored a presentation by Bill Quatman on February 3 about our Blessed Mother Mary's house in Ephesus. It was very interesting. The Respect for Life Ministry will host a presentation on March 3 dealing with respecting life. Information will be published in the parish bulletin. Steve Wilson called everyone's attention to the upcoming Sweetheart Dance and reported that the funeral dinner group is still in the process of reorganizing into teams. They provide dinners in the social hall after funeral services but do not cater in people's homes.

Liturgy: Cathy Teague reported that six new ushers have signed up to serve. Minimum age for ushers has been set. They must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Two people have expressed interest in assuming the duties of server coordinator. Stacy Pennington is the new baptismal garment coordinator. A parishioner has offered to donate money to be used to buy new priest's vestments. To facilitate music accompaniment of hymns during

distribution of Communion, the organist will now receive Communion with the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist before beginning the hymns. The Ash Wednesday liturgy schedule was reviewed. It will be published in the church bulletin.

Fund Raising: Joe Ross talked about the Boy Scouts' fund-raising breakfast. He said this would be held on February 22 in lieu of their regular donut Sunday.

Education: Julia Alsobrook said that the catechist retreat last weekend was very good. She called attention to Mardi Gras ticket sales after Masses the next two weekends and said that volunteers are needed to help with sales and with the function itself. Phil Baumert and Mary George said they would help. This year's First Communion class is very large – 137 students. After taking a survey of parents and having much discussion, Father Albers, Father Armbruster, and Cecilia Richardson have decided that children receiving First Communion will do so at regular Sunday Masses rather than trying to have one single Mass for this purpose. Arrangements will be made to spread the First Communions out over five weekends with no more than 10 children receiving First Communion at any one Mass. Father Albers will address this plan in his column in the church bulletin. Finally, Julia informed everyone that there will be five soup suppers during Lent. Money raised at these suppers will go to the In As Much Food Pantry.

Pastor's Comments: Father Albers commented on the parish garden presentation and said that while it was very informative, more questions need to be answered before any kind of decision can be made. The proposal merits further study.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None presented.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will take place on March 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Phil Baumert is responsible for the opening and closing prayers.

Closing Prayer: Julia Alsobrook led the closing prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Thomas J. Pfeiffer, Recording Secretary