

ST. JAMES PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

JUNE 4, 2008

Opening Prayer: Mary George

Members Present: Fr. Tom Albers, John Alvey, Mary George, Cathy Teague, Ann Tucker, Dave McDonald

Members Absent: Fr. Matt Link, Jim Thornton, Joe Ross, Lisa Richardson, Julia Alsobrook, Diane Dolak

Guests Present: Jim Newell, Chuck Koesterer, Walt Holt

Approval of Minutes: The council approved the minutes of the May 12, 2008 meeting with several changes. Cathy Teague will make the changes to the minutes before they are published.

Budget Report: Walt Holt, Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee, and Jim Newell, Parish Business Manager, presented the proposed fiscal year 2008-2009 budget for the approval of the council. They pointed out that the budget has been prepared as a balanced budget as required by the diocese. To make it balance, income estimates are very optimistic. In view of the ever-increasing operating expenses, aggressive action needs to be taken to increase revenue. Several ways of doing this were discussed including doing a better job of marketing the Dream Hope Program, encouraging parishioners to remember the parish in their wills and bequests, continuing to emphasize and explain stewardship and responsible tithing, and encouraging parishioners to make stock donations to the parish.

Walt and Jim also explained that income does not remain steady throughout the year. It is highest around Christmas time and then drops off to a low during the summer months. A sizeable cash balance needs to be kept in the bank to meet expenses during the summer. John Alvey suggested that if more people would participate in automatic electronic contributions from their bank accounts to the parish on a monthly basis, cash flow might be smoothed out.

After extensive discussion, the council approved the budget and agreed to participate in a joint meeting with The Administration and Finance Committee at 7:00 P.M. on June 26, 2008 to further discuss initiatives to increase revenue and to talk about future parish development.

Old Business:

- **Discerning God's Call for the Parish Goal #5 (Parish improvement project):**
The addition to the school has been completed and was dedicated and blessed by Bishop Finn on June 1, 2008. Roof replacement over the narthex and existing school building is in progress. Grass seed has been planted in the areas affected by the construction and is coming up. At the June 26 joint meeting with the Administration and Finance Committee, the council will discuss the present parish debt and explore future courses of action such as continuing to pay down the debt before moving forward with another project or possibly having a new fund drive to begin a new project.
- **Parish Feast Day Celebration:**
The parish feast day is June 25. Mary George is in charge of arrangements. Announcements will be placed in the Sunday bulletin and the monthly newsletter. Ann Tucker and Cathy Teague volunteered to help Mary with details.
- **Fr. Matt's Going Away Reception:**
The pastoral council will host a reception for Fr. Matt following the 11:00 A.M. Mass on June 22. Council members will contact various parishioners to bring appetizers.

New Business:

- **Pastoral Council Discernment:**
A list of names of parishioners recommended for membership on the pastoral council has been prepared. Council members will contact these individuals to verify their interest in serving on the council and will then send a letter to those interested, inviting them to attend four two-hour discernment sessions during June and July. Fr. Tom gave approval for Ann Tucker to contact a facilitator, Biagio Mazza, to conduct the discernment sessions. The plan is to complete the discernment process and have the new council members seated on the council in August.

Ministry Reports:

- **Youth:** No Report
- **Activities:** Mary George
Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship information was included in last Sunday's bulletin and has been posted in the narthex. The dedication of the new school addition and the reception afterward went very well.

Groups: No Report

Liturgy: No Report

Education: No Report

Pastor's Comments: Fr. Tom Albers

Fr. Tom reported that he will be moving to a new residence located behind where he presently lives. When Fr. Timothy arrives, he will live with Fr. Tom at the new residence.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None submitted

Next Meeting: August 11, 2008

Closing Prayer: Mary George

Minutes respectfully submitted by Thomas J. Pfeiffer, Recording Secretary