

ST. JAMES PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

NOVEMBER 10, 2008

Opening Prayer: The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer led by Joe Ross.

Members Present: Dave McDonald, Mary George, Jim Thornton, Joe Ross, Lisa Richardson, Julia Alsobrook, Ann Tucker, Phil Baumert, and Steve Wilson

Members Absent: Cathy Teague, Diane Dolak, Father Tom Albers, Father Timothy Armbruster

Guests Present: Jim Newell, Chuck Koesterer

Approval of Minutes: Several corrections and changes were made to the October 13, 2008 minutes after which Julia Alsobrook made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. Steve Wilson seconded the motion which carried.

Additions to the Agenda: Weekend cleanup

Old Business:

Hope Update: Tom Pfeiffer reported that HOPE Gift Card sales are up and that family participation in the program is increasing. Publicity is continuing with weekly notices in the bulletin. A flyer and order form were inserted in the November 9th bulletin and another flyer with suggested Christmas shopping ideas will be inserted in the November 30th bulletin. Ideas for program expansion and improvement were discussed. Volunteers are still needed to help sell cards after the weekend Masses and to help with program management and administration. Anyone interested should contact Tom.

Weekend Cleanup: Phil Baumert reported that this weekend is parish cleanup weekend. Jim Newell offered to give Phil a tour of the grounds so that he could make a list of what needs to be done outdoors. Joe Ross said that in past years, the major work outdoors was focused on collecting leaves and trimming bushes. The Scouts will be here to help. If the weather is bad on Saturday, the outside cleanup may need to be postponed and only the inside cleanup will take place.

New Business:

Knights of Columbus group concerns on meeting room space: The Knights have been having difficulty finding a room to use for their monthly meetings. Father Albers has become aware of this and Jim Newell reported that he believes the problem has been resolved.

Questionnaire about Catholic Schools in the diocese: Jim Newell distributed a questionnaire to council members and asked that they complete it so that he could return it to Father Albers. Members of parishes throughout the diocese are completing this survey.

Tour of Youth Room requested by Joe Ross: Joe raised questions regarding this room and wanted to know why the two classrooms reserved for youth activities cannot be used by others in the school. A tour was not taken but extended discussion took place as the council members tried to understand this arrangement.

Ministry Reports:

Youth: Lisa Richardson reported that preparations are underway for St. James attendance in the KCYC.

Activities: Jim Thornton and Mary George reported on the All Saints Day remembrance service. Attendance was a little bit less than hoped for. Better communication in getting the word out should help next year. The format was changed this year and it received mixed reviews. Some like the traditional prayer service format while others like this year's program with a guest speaker.

Groups: Ann Tucker said that the Precious Blood Society Companions retreat was held. She had no other news from other groups.

Liturgy: Phil Baumert said that the new piano is in place. It is an electronic instrument that cost much less than a traditional piano and will provide a wide variety of music options. He said that the new liturgy group met a couple of weeks ago and is working on a mission statement. Father Armbruster met with the group and they discussed some of the parish needs. Joe Ross offered a suggestion that the liturgy group consider the selection of music used at the Masses. When too many new and unfamiliar songs are introduced at once, there is very little participation in the singing by those attending Mass. New selections should be introduced slowly and mixed with the more familiar songs.

Education: Julia Alsobrook reported that the final meeting for preparation for receipt of the Sacrament of Reconciliation was taking place this evening. One-hundred and thirty children are preparing to make their first confession. Father Joe Miller is planning to speak to the religious education classes. David Butel will be here on November 12th to give his presentation on the Gospel of Mark. Baptism lead couples are still needed and also someone is needed to keep track of the baptismal garments. The school is working on updating its website. The Penny Carnival was a big success. Attendance at the auction was not what had been hoped for. Better publicity is needed in the future. The bazaar is coming up Saturday, November 15th.

Fund Raising: Joe Ross received a request from the Girl Scouts to advertise a fund-raising event in the church bulletin. The request was received too late to consider for last-week's bulletin and they want orders placed by November 15th. This makes it too late to be put in the November 16th bulletin.

Pastor's Comments: Jim Newell said that both he and Father Albers have concerns about the parish website. Much of the information on it is not being kept up to date. Members of each activity with information on the website need to discuss how they can put procedures in place to keep the information current.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None at this time

Next Meeting: The usual meeting day would be the second Monday of December. That is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. Chairman Dave McDonald will speak with Father Albers and let everyone know when a meeting date is decided upon.

Closing Prayer: Joe Ross led the closing prayer.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Thomas J. Pfeiffer, Recording Secretary