

ST. JAMES PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES OCTOBER 13, 2008

Opening Prayer: The meeting began with a prayer led by Lisa Richardson.

Members Present: Lisa Richardson, Dave McDonald, Joe Ross, Jim Thornton, Mary George, Phil Baumert, Cathy Teague, Fr. Tom Albers, Julia Alsobrook, Ann Tucker, Steve Wilson

Members Absent: Dianne Dolak

Guests Present: Elizabeth Schneider, Jim Newell and Chuck Koesterer

Additions to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: The September 8, 2008 minutes were unanimously approved without change.

Guests Comments: Elizabeth Schneider commented that school families are required to purchase \$100 a month of Hope and Dream Cards and asked if the Religious Ed and Youth Groups were also being required to purchase them since they use the Church facilities also. Jim Newell commented that Tom Pfeiffer is heading up the job to increase purchases and that there are more cards being purchased now than before but it still needs to increase more. Tom has the support of the Finance Council. We will start pushing the program more. Make sure to encourage purchasing Hope Gift Cards to everyone with whom you are acquainted. Tom Pfeiffer is working hard on this.

Old Business: Status of Parish improvement project. Fr. Tom reported that all is complete and Time Warner Cable has settled their business. Excel settled for damage done. The council members along with Jim Newell and Chuck Koesterer toured the new cafeteria/teacher's lounge addition and the library. Fr. Tom stated that even though it is presently being used solely as a teacher's lounge, it can be changed back to a classroom or more cafeteria space without any further remodeling or construction. It was discussed that a memo of explanation should be written so that members of the Parish would have the correct information. Dave McDonald is to draft a memo of explanation for the council.

New Business:

- 1) The council toured the new computer server room and air conditioning for that room was discussed. Measures are being taken to make sure that the temperature will be kept at a level to keep the equipment working properly and that there will be no moisture in that room. The equipment has to be protected from the fire alarm sprinklers.
- 2) The new Liturgy Committee Group has been formed. The first meeting is to be October 21st.
- 3) Purchasing the new piano was discussed. Danny and other members of the staff and choir had gone to a music store in Lee's Summit (at the request of a parishioner whose mother owns the store) and found an electronic piano that has an excellent sound and is very low in maintenance that costs around \$8,000 or \$9,000. With a trade-in on the old piano, Danny already has almost enough money donated to purchase it.
- 4) There was a discussion on need of ushers and usher training.
- 5) A replacement for the coordinator for the servers is needed.

Ministry Reports:

Youth: Lisa Richardson reported that on the weekend before Thanksgiving, 43 kids from St. James will be going to KCYC at Crown Center. That will be the largest group ever attending that. It will conclude with a Mass presided by Bishop Finn. The St. James hand choir will be performing at that Mass.

There will be a barn dance on October 18th for the 6th thru 8th graders in Weston. There will be a hay ride, bonfire and a DJ. We will be taking a busload of kids there. All Catholic Parishes in the area will be going to that.

Activities: Mary George reported that there will be a Memorial prayer service followed by a soup and salad lunch for all families who have buried a family member from St. James in the last year. A letter of invitation was sent to each family. The school counselor will be there to give a talk.

A clean up day is scheduled on November 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Ann and Mary will oversee the indoor work while Phil will supervise the outdoor cleanup.

Mary asked if the Pastoral Council would serve coffee and doughnuts after the 7:30 and 9:15 Masses on January 18th. It was agreed that the council would do that, being as visible as possible.

Liturgy: Phil Baumert could not remember all the names of people on the committee but some of them are Danny Baker, Julie Landuyt, Phil Baumert, Fr. Tom Albers, Cathy Svetlecic, and someone from the Lectors. The need for more ushers and more usher training was discussed. He reported that George and Cathy Svetlecic are the coordinators for the ushers. Some more ushers are in the works.

Groups: Ann Tucker reported that Altar Society along with The Rosary Group had a Rosary rally October 7th, Feast of the Holy Rosary, and it was beautiful and had about 70 people in attendance. There was a social afterwards.

Mission Sunday collection on October 19th will be for our sister church in Peru. The Peruvian Mission Group will be selling coffee and hand made items from Peru after all Masses.

The Precious Blood Companions are meeting at the Precious Blood Center instead of the church.

Education: Julia Alsobrook reported that the Fall Gathering went well. Food was great, activities went over well--response cards were overwhelmingly positive. The only drawback was that not enough people were there; mostly people who are already active in parish life attended.

Religious Education registrations continue to come in. Enrollment right now is sitting at 330 on Sunday mornings and 100 on Wednesday nights.

Sacrament preparation for 1st Reconciliation is underway. About 130 children will be making their 1st Reconciliation & Communion this year.

David Butel will be here November 12th to give a presentation on the Gospel of Mark. One of the goals of the education group is to do more adult faith formation--that's what people put on their surveys. David Butel's presentation supports that goal.

For the School: The diocese is holding a training session for the new School Board members on October 13th. Teachers joined with St. Pius & St. Therese for Professional Development on October 6th.

Over 600 attended Grandparents Day.

8th graders are getting ready for their pilgrimage to Conception Abbey.

Red Ribbon Week this year will have a wellness focus.

R.C. Printing recently donated a substantial amount of paper to the school.

The school will be teaming with the Juior League for this year's book drive.

New basketball goals in the gym should be ready by the end of November. The scoreboard has been repaired and is now ready for use. Those who use it just need to make sure it gets turned off at the end of the game.

Pastor's Comments: Fr. Tom Albers said it is time to start people in the Parish thinking about a new church. There will be an insert in the bulletin for people to be thinking and dreaming about what they want to see in our new church. It is a way to get some excitement about a new church for St. James. We will form a committee for this.

We continue to review the process for receiving Holy Communion. It takes too long.

We will start having announcements at the beginning of Mass instead of at the end of Mass.

The Diocese has reviewed the Sacrament of Confirmation process and has decided to leave the age where it is now at the freshman and sophomore level; however, the preparation period will be reduced from two years to one year.

Agenda for Next Meeting: None

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be November 10th. Joe Ross will lead prayer.

Closing Prayer: The meeting was closed by Chairman, Dave McDonald with the closing prayer led by Lisa Richardson.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ann Tucker who graciously substituted for the recording secretary while he was away.