

ST. JAMES PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

Opening Prayer: The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer led by Chairman Dave McDonald.

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

Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Chuck Koesterer

Additions to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Cathy Teague that the August 11, 2008 minutes be approved as submitted. Steve Wilson seconded the motion which carried without dissent.

Old Business: Status of Parish improvement project. Fr. Albers reported that everything has been signed off and the final payment has been made. There still remains an issue with Time Warner communications and some landscaping of the wild life garden area. Any further expenses will have to be paid outside of the contract. The roofing project is complete but the quality of the work is not what was expected and has prompted the diocese to take the company off of its recommended list for any future projects.

New Business:

- 1) Appointment of council members to Ministry Report Groups. The following appointments were made:

Youth: Lisa Richardson

Activities: Mary George and Jim Thornton

Groups: Ann Tucker and Steve Wilson

Liturgy: Phil Baummert and Cathy Teague

Education: Diane Dolak and Julia Alsobrook

Discussion took place about the Parish Liturgy Committee. The old committee has been retired by the Parish Liturgist. He is in the process of assessing how a new liturgy team should be constituted. Phil Baummert said that he had been asked to consider serving on the new team as a representative from the choir. More information will be forthcoming.

- 2) Appointment of person to be point of contact on fund raising requests. Joe Ross will serve as the fund raising point of contact.

Ministry Reports:

Youth: Lisa Richardson reported on a new program starting in October for high school students. It is being called Christians for Catholic Adolescent Faith Exploration. Students will meet on Monday evenings. A similar program is being considered for middle school youth. They would meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Lisa mentioned that there had been some problems locating enough classrooms for confirmation class, religious education and youth activities. Fr. Albers said that the problems have been worked out. The library will be available for meetings in addition to other rooms. The teachers lounge and music room, however, are not available. The teachers lounge has been furnished with very nice donated furnishings for that specific purpose and musical instruments are located in the music room. Neither of these rooms are suitable for meetings.

Activities: Mary George reported that Joe Barry is stepping down from many years of doing an outstanding job of coordinating the blood drive program. Nikki Power will be taking over from him. Mary discussed planning for a memorial service for deceased parish members to be held on November 1 with a luncheon to follow. She asked whether the Pastoral Council might be interested in sponsoring a donut Sunday to cover the 7:30 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. Masses. Mary will check on a date. Finally, Mary discussed the scheduling of the annual fall cleanup day. Possible dates are November 15 or 22. Mary George and Ann Tucker will be in charge of inside cleaning while Phil Baummert will oversee outside cleanup. More details on all of these activities will be provided at the next meeting.

Groups: Ann Tucker reported that the Altar Society held its first meeting of the fall season and due to other activities taking place in the social hall they had to meet in the narthex. They had to find and set up their own chairs. Ann asked why better scheduling could not have taken place. She also reported that the Altar Society contacted the parish office to set up a date for its annual bingo event and was told that January 17 is the only date available. Ann said that the Companions group is going to move its meetings to the Precious Blood Center.

Liturgy: Joe Ross reported that the Liturgy Committee has been retired. More information will be provided once the Parish Liturgist has had time to decide how he wants to organize his new team. The flow of parishioners coming up to receive communion was discussed. It takes too long. Parish Liturgist, Danny Baker, Fr. Albers and Fr. Armbruster are studying this and looking for possible ways to speed up the process. Fr. Albers observed that ushers are an important part of the communion process. More ushers are needed and they should be adults rather than children. The usher program needs to be beefed up and good training needs to take place.

Education: Julia Alsobrook reported that religious education classes begin on September 14 and on September 17. More catechists are still needed (1 team for Sundays and 2 teams for Wednesdays). More lead couples for baptism preparation are also needed. Fr. Timothy will be conducting sacramental preparation for reconciliation and communion on September 22. The eighth graders will hold their volleyball tournament September 11-14. This is one of their biggest fund raisers. On September 19 there will be a student retreat for all school students and on the next day there will be a spaghetti dinner. Four Hundred and twenty-eight students are registered in St. James Catholic School this year compared to 379 last year. Diane Dolak reported that there are about 12 catechumens presently interested in becoming Catholics. She said a notice will be placed in the Sunday bulletin to let people know that this is a year-round program and they can begin anytime. She also called the Council's attention to the patriotic rosary that is recited after daily Mass and before the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturdays in the church. This will continue until the elections in November.

Pastor's Comments: Fr. Albers said that he will be starting a Saturday morning adult education program on October 4. It will be an informal gathering in the social hall from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each Saturday. Its focus will be on the topic "What You Want to Know About the Catholic Church." All adults are welcome. Coffee will be available. Fr. Albers reported that he is sending four RCIA team members to the convention in Cleveland this year. A representative from Catholic radio station KEXS was here to tell people about the station this past weekend. Father thought this would be an informational presentation only, but it turned out to also be a plea for pledges and donations. Father wants to keep these presentations at Mass to a minimum because they tend to take too much time. He knows of four more that will be coming. Catholic Relief Services will be here this weekend to present information. They will not take up a collection. In March, Food for the Poor will make a presentation. Sometime next year, the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging will be here to present information as will be a missionary priest yet to be determined.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on October 13. Lisa Richardson will lead the prayer.

Closing Prayer: The meeting was closed by Chairman Dave McDonald with a prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Thomas J. Pfeiffer, Recording Secretary