

PASTORAL STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Minutes for the PSC Meeting on October 11, 2006

6:00 PM at St. Albert the Great Church

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present: Fr. George Arahna (Pastor), Helen Baumann (STA Site Committee), Laura Chiu (OLR Site Committee), Tom Jaworowski (Human Concerns Committee), Mary Beth Lefebvre (Youth Ministry Board), Micky Martin (Liturgy Board), Bud McKenna (Facilities Committee), Fr. Tony Medina (Parochial Vicar), Joe Passarello (Finance Committee), Marguerite Purcell (SAG Site Committee), Jesse Ruezga (Hispanic Leadership Team), Mary Sullivan (Communications Committee), Chuck Tully (Parish Administrator)

Absent: Adult Spiritual Development, Catechetical Board, Community Life Board

Guests: Alice and Walt Lundin

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Tonight's meeting was abbreviated to a duration of only one hour because most of the attendees wished to attend the last session of the Parish Mission given by Fr. Osborne. The meeting began one hour earlier than usual.

The question was raised about how the decisions are made for the selection of parishioners who will be given recognition for outstanding stewardship. After some quick discussion, this issue would be put on the agenda of a future meeting.

The PPP held at OLR on October 8 was a great success. Announcements of upcoming events included a presentation on October 17th concerning immigration reform, a talk on the Dead Seal Scrolls on October 21st, and the October 22 "Burning Bush" session on the Death Penalty.

Fr. George described the recent Newcomer's Dinner with the Pastor with ten adults and three children in attendance. On Sunday, November 19th, the "Burning Bush" session will focus on *Deus Caritas Est*.

The Ministry Reports scheduled for tonight were not presented. These will be

placed on the agenda for the November PSC meeting. A discussion ensued about ways to assist the Catechetical Board, which is currently inactive, to get up and running to fulfill the goals of this important ministry.

A very brief overview was given about the Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting held on September 25th before the meeting was adjourned.

Prologue

The meeting was called to order by Bud McKenna at 6:06 p.m. Micky passed out the script for the opening prayer and led the attendees in its recitation. The proposed agenda was approved. The minutes from the September 13 meeting were considered and several corrections were proposed. These would be inserted into the final version of the September minutes. Because of the time constraints upon the agenda this evening, the recorder suggested that the final version of these minutes be emailed to all the attendees of that meeting for their approval or suggestions for corrections. These corrected minutes would then become the official record of the September 13th meeting.

Comments from the Council and the Floor

Marguerite inquired about who makes the decisions for the selection of parishioners given recognition for outstanding stewardship. Fr. George explained that about two years ago an *ad hoc* committee was formed, which made the recommendations for the annual stewardship awards. This committee evaporated, so that this year Fr. George made the selections as follows:

OLR - John Braun, Tom Foy, and Charles Volpe
SAG - Linda Gargiulo, Chris Lundin, and Phil Schroeder
STA - Randy Jones

Fr. George was amenable to having a committee created for this purpose. A recommendation was proposed to put this issue on the agenda for a future meeting, and no one objected.

Old Business

Mary Beth reported that the Dermody Center needs work. Micky announced that the PPP (Parish Patron Party) held on Sunday, October 8, at OLR after the 10:30 a.m. Mass was a great success. Laura, who planned and organized the food service that day, deserves an enthusiastic vote of gratitude from those who attended the PPP.

Upcoming Events

Tom gave a reminder for the presentation on immigration reform which is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Tuesday evening, October 17 at OLR. Hershel Shanks will be the featured speaker on the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Lucie Stern Community Center on Saturday, October 21, at 7:30 p.m. The 'Burning Bush' session for Sunday Afternoon, October 22, will focus on the Death Penalty in California. Terry McCaffrey will be the main speaker and presenter.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fr. George expressed his satisfaction with the attendance at Fr. Osborne's Parish Mission. The message from Fr. Osborne has been well received by the attendees.

Fr. George described the Newcomer's Dinner with the Pastor which was held at the rectory Sunday evening, October 8th. Ten adults and three children attended this dinner. Jesse Ruezga and Luis ??? of the Hispanic Ministry helped in the preparation, serving, and clean-up at this dinner. Barbara Kent and Margo White were the gracious hostesses at the dinner. A suggestion was made that perhaps this Newcomer's Dinner should be expanded to become more of a party with members of the Hispanic Group included. Marguerite reflected that a large party of this type held years ago worked very well.

Fr. George announced the 'Burning Bush' sessions for the remainder of 2006. For Sunday, October 22nd, the 'Burning Bush' session is entitled, "Faith and the Death Penalty: whose life is it anyway?". On Sunday, November 19th, the topic for discussion will be *Deus Caritas Est*. The topic for the December 17th session has not been determined if the 'Burning Bush' is held that late in December.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Because tonight's meeting was decided to be only one hour in length, the ministries scheduled to give their reports tonight were directed to make only a brief statement of the major highlights of their activities and submit their reports in writing (preferably by email) for inclusion in the minutes of tonight's meeting. Doing this would allow the attendees to be present at the Parish Mission at 7:00 p.m. in the hospitality room.

The Community Life Board did not present a report. Joan Myen will be phoned because her email system is inoperative. Minutes will be sent to her by snail-mail.

The Catechetical Board no longer has a representative to the Pastoral Stewardship Council, since the withdrawal of Margaret Lane. It was reported that the Catechetical Advisory Board, which is concerned with Pre-K through 5th Grade children, has acquired two new members from the Time and Talent effort. Helen inquired how the PSC might be able to help recruit new members to the Catechetical Board and who might initiate this task. Mary commented that an announcement for this purpose has been placed in the parish bulletin. Mary Beth stated that Rob Manfrey has reached out to the parents of youngsters. Fr. George suggested that perhaps two members from each ministry could be added to the Catechetical Board to get it up and running. Joe emphasized that parents really care about their kids and know the importance of their spiritual development. But there are difficulties with aggressive mothers. Mary Beth and Joe both posed the question "What is the best approach?" A plan must be formulated to reach the objectives of catechesis for young children. Micky advised that the PSC should move

fast on this issue. Someone initiated the possibility of a Parent's Coop at STA.

New Business

Helen declared that at the diocesan meeting of pastoral councils, surveys indicated that people in our community are much more interested in an 'intellectually challenging' worship style rather than an 'emotionally uplifting' worship style. Helen's synopsis of this meeting appears as an attachment to these minutes.

Mary Beth inquired what was the purpose of these diocesan pastoral meetings. Helen responded that the diocese has emphasized empowerment of the laity in the non-sacerdotal functions of the parish. Walt brought up the question of the most effective use for the demographic data (referred to as Percept) provided to the diocese. This was proposed as an agenda item for a future meeting of the PSC.

Closure

The next meeting will be held at OLR on Wednesday, November 8th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. to enable those present to attend the Parish Mission

ACTION ITEMS

1. The Community Life Board, the Catechetical Board, and the Adult Spiritual Development Group shall provide a written report of their activities during the past three months
2. The proposal for a committee to select parishioners displaying outstanding stewardship will be placed on the agenda for a future PSC meeting.
3. The use of the demographic 'Percept' data will be discussed at a future PSC meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Synopsis of the Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting of 09/25.