

Pastoral Stewardship Council Meeting Minutes for April 12, 2006
7:00 PM at SAG Hall

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present: Fr. George Aranha, Helen Baumann (STA Site Committee), Pat Briggs/Susan Adams (SAG Site Committee), Laura Chiu (OLR Site Committee), Phil Coates (Communications), Tom Jaworowski (HCC), , Micky Martin (Liturgy Board), Gerard McGuire (Adult Spiritual Development), Bud McKenna (Finance Committee), Joan Meyn (Community Life Board), Fr. Eddie Obero, Jesse Rueza (Hispanic Ministry), Chuck Tully (Administration)

Absent: Margaret Lane, (Catechetics), MaryBeth Lefebve (Youth Ministry), Jim McLaughlin (Facilities)

OBSERVERS: France Bark, Carl Bunje, Ruth Chippendale, Donna Gillis, Walt Lundin, Ann Masik, Marguerite Purcell, Tina Reyes, Kay Williams and several reps for the 12:15 mass community whose names I did not record.

Highlights: There was a challenging discussion of the process and end result of the Liturgy Ministry Team's work to resolve problems with the daily mass schedule.

The meeting was called to order by Phil Coates.

Joan led us in a prayer. There was a brief discussion of the agenda.

MINUTES: The March minutes were reviewed, and approved.

Phil decided to consider the issues arising from the change in the mass schedule as the first item of business. Helen, on behalf of the STA Site Committee, asked Micky Martin, as the rep from the Liturgy Team, to give a report on how and why the mass schedule had changed to eliminate the daily mass at 12:15 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday each week starting immediately after Easter Sunday. The new schedule would have the 12:15 mass on Wednesday and Saturday.

Micky noted that the Lit Team had been struggling with the difficulty of covering the daily mass schedule for months. They had thought the problem was resolved with Fr Carew's arrival, but his abrupt departure left the parish in a crisis for scheduling presiders for daily mass. Micky first learned about the change at the Lit Team meeting on April 1, 2006.

Fr George noted that some of the priests on the schedule can only help at the 7:15 mass. The parish was blessed with Fr. Charlie's help for many years, but he is no longer able to say mass for us. There are conflicts arising from days off, vacations, clergy study sessions, funerals and Holy Days which make it difficult to commit to three daily masses.

An observer asked about the possibility of holding communion services until we could locate a presider for the mass. Walt Lundin noted that Diana Macalintal had presented on this issue, and it was his understanding that the policy of the diocese is to encourage Morning Prayer rather than a communion service.

Carl Bunje questioned why the priests could not say more masses each day. Each priest can be expected to say a certain number of masses each day. In some areas, priests say three masses each day. If each of our two priests was potentially available to say three masses, we would not have a problem with the daily mass schedule.

A participant offered the suggestion that we offer a morning mass at OLR and a noon mass at STA as an attempt at geographical and time balance in the schedule. Another asked that there be a communion service if we could not offer a mass. Access to eucharist is important to many in the community.

Gerard wanted to know why we were having a problem with the schedule, since the 7:15 mass is presided over by priests who are not on staff in the parish. STA has two priests and two masses to cover, so it is not clear why we can't manage this. There are a lot of things we could do to help the priests, but we can't say mass. What is it that we can do to help so that our priests can be available to offer mass?

Fr. Eddie commented that he is willing to, and frequently does, preside at two masses in a day. He is willing to say the 7:15 mass. He did have a conflict with saying mass at Casa Olga on the first Tuesday, but this has been resolved.

Phil then noted that the Lit Min Team should be charged with further investigation of the process, and any possible alternative resolutions of the conflicts that can be articulated. If we are unable to have a presider for mass, can we have a communion service? Also, can we consider dividing the communion services more equitably among the daily mass communities?

Kay Williams spoke to invite the people at the meeting to join the Lit Min Team, and help them resolve these issues, and contribute to the other work of the Lit Team.

An observer commented that there had been no notice to the 12:15 community before the announcement of the change in the schedule. The person requested an opportunity to be heard on this subject before the decision be taken to eliminate a mass.

Ann Masik asked why we cannot have the 12:15 mass when we have two masses to cover and we have two priests assigned to the parish. She noted that we preach stewardship but we do not seem to practice it.

Fr George pointed out that the week of April 30th would again strain parish resources because he will be gone to Lourdes for a week with the bishop. Then there will be a priest study week coming up when all the priests will be in class. The struggle here is to find a permanent solution to an intermittent problem. In the interim, Fr George agreed that the 12:15 community could keep the church open at the regular times, and have communion services on those days when we are unable to provide a presider for mass.

There was a motion made, seconded and passed to refer this issue to the Lit Min Team for further review.

Susan Adams then offered the suggestion that we “calendarize” the priests’ activities so that people realize what the priests are busy doing. The bishop publishes his calendar. Can we get more general info about what the priests are doing with their time so that parishioners can learn to appreciate their efforts and the difficulty of their tasks?

Carl Bunje offered that there might be tasks like rosaries and other jobs that could be done by the deacon to free up the priests’ time to say mass, which the deacon cannot do.

PASTOR’S REPORT:

1. Easter Vigil: Three adults and five older children were baptized. Eighteen received First Communion. Eighteen were confirmed. One couple renewed their marriage vows. Due to the weather, they were forced to use Plan B for the fire.
2. The parish held its first newcomer’s dinner. It was a resounding success with seven newcomers getting to know each other and the priests.
3. Hispanic Ministry. Maria is somewhat overwhelmed at the magnitude of the job, so Fr George has decided to hire an associate for fifteen hours per week to help her.
4. Irene Holochak is leaving the parish, so we are looking for a replacement for her for her work with the catechetical program and with Pastoral Home Ministry.
5. The parish has hired a new youth minister, Rob Manfrey. He will live in the convent at SAG. He will start on April 15th, subject to his fingerprints.

BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:

- 1 ADA. We have received pledges for \$159,000 in ten weeks. We are \$15,000 short of our combined goal for this drive. Fewer people seem to be giving more money. We received contributions from 22% of parishioners. In 2005, 23% of parishioners contributed to the ADA.
- 2 Homer House repairs. Chuck has gotten two bids for the repairs. The initial scope of the work focused on upgrades to bring the building up to code. As the investigation progressed, we have broadened the scope of the work. Gerard questioned whether we have the necessary skill set to be fiscally responsible about this project. Bud noted that the building has been vacant since January. They have had difficulty getting contractors to bid on this project. The DSJ requires us to get three bids for any project that will cost more than \$10,000. Tom J. suggested that we consider hiring a part-time property manager. Gerard commented that this was a stewardship issue and that we should seek out a volunteer to advise us on this.

Nominating Committee for New Officers:

The bylaws require a nominating committee consisting of a new member, a continuing member and an outgoing member of the PSC. Phil, Bud and Micky agreed to serve on this committee.

It was noted that Susan Adams, Micky Martin and Mary Sullivan will become new members of the PSC. Joan, MaryBeth and Tom are continuing members.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

HCC: See written report attached to the minutes.

HISPANIC MINISTRY: Jesse reported that the Hispanic Ministry Team has held a retreat for 56 active liturgical ministers in their community. Last week they held follow-up meetings for retreat participants. Last week the children put on a play at mass. There will be another play on Good Friday and on Easter Sunday. The community is looking forward to the appointment of a bilingual parochial vicar for our parish. Confirmation will be held, in English, at OLR, on May 13th. All are welcome.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Joan reported that Fr. George came to the last Comm. Life meeting, as the new liaison with the staff. This new idea is much appreciated. They discussed the newcomers dinner, which program got off to a successful start in March. There were three couples and a single parishioner and three priests. Everyone had a good time. Mary Sullivan is diligently continuing to work on collecting the Time and Talent sheets so she can update the volunteer database. She now has 107 T&T sheets. The Seder dinner was a fundraiser for Fr Jack Donald. It was a huge success with 72 parishioners enjoying a wonderful meal and program. There were six members of the PSC in attendance, which was noted with appreciation by the production team.

Community Life will be hosting a reception for the RCIA candidates during the Easter vigil at the SAG center. There will be a party to celebrate Fr. Boyle's sixty years as a priest on June 17th. This party will be hosted by TMC.

The Funeral Reception Committee recently had a meeting to reorganize themselves. They have three new people who will be co-chairing the organization, and four workable teams with subs and callers. Widows and Widowers continues to be a fun, and very active group, as is the Age of Aquinas. All are welcome to join these active, growing groups.

PSC BUSINESS: As no one has stepped forward to lead the organization of the PSC retreat on May 20th, it falls to the executive committee to take this on. In the ensuing discussion, Laura and Joan agreed to help by providing food for the meeting. Helen will ask Veronica if she would be willing to be the facilitator, as she is so good at this. She will also ask Maureen Clark to provide part of the program.

PASTORAL HOME MINISTRY: Fr. George is concerned about the placement of PHM in our organizational structure. There is a question whether this ministry should be part of Lit Min Team, Adult Spiritual Development (ASD), Community Life...or form its own additional Team, with a seat at the table at the PSC. Fr, George is particularly interested in making sure that the parish is aware of this very active ministry. Ruth Chippendale reported that PHM had a meeting and discussed this issue, and they definitely see themselves as part of the Lit Min Team. Mary Fong, of PHM, will be replacing Irene Holochak when she leaves in June. Perhaps we could invite Mary to join ASD. Ruth doesn't think PHM would be interested in being a separate member of the PSC...they don't need another meeting. Fr. Eddy commented that PHM does not need any help. They solve their own problems. Micky commented that it would be helpful if we heard from PHM occasionally. We could ask the Lit Min rep to report on the activities of the PHM as part of the reps quarterly report to the PSC.

ACTION ITEMS:

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS BY CATECHETICAL
YOUTH MINISTRY
ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

ATTACHMENTS;

1. Human Concerns Quarterly Report

Next Meeting is on May 10, 2006 at SAG.

Agenda: will lead the opening prayer.