

PASTORAL STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
Minutes for the PSC Meeting on November 08, 2006
7:00 PM at Our Lady of the Rosary Church

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present: Fr. George Arahna (Pastor), Susan Adams (SAG Site Committee) Helen Baumann (STA Site Committee), Tom Jaworowski (Human Concerns Committee), Mary Beth Lefebvre (Youth Ministry Board), Micky Martin (Liturgy Board), Bud McKenna (Facilities Committee), Jim McLaughlin (OLR Site Committee), Fr. Tony Medina (Parochial Vicar), Gerard McGuire (Adult Spiritual Development), Joan Meyn (Community Life Board), Joe Passarello (Finance Committee), Jesse Ruezga (Hispanic Leadership Team), Mary Sullivan (Communications Committee), Chuck Tully (Parish Administrator)

Absent: Catechetical Board

Guests: Ruth Chippendale, Marguerite Purcell, Walt Lundin

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

A committee consisting of Susan, Walt, Bud, and Mary was formed to study how the percept data can be utilized in the STA Parish. A representative from the Catechetical Board has been appointed to attend future PSC meetings.

The October Mass attendance count reveal that OLR stayed almost exactly the same in 2006 compared to 2005, while SAG gained 37 more attendees and STA lost 59 attendees in comparison to last year. The Mass count at all three sites for one week-end averaged over the four weekends in October was 1,625 adults and children. This represents about a 1% decrease since last year (or 22 less attendees). A procedure for the publication of reports in the parish bulletin was described and approved. The Hispanic Community, Adult Spiritual Development, and the Youth ministry representatives presented their quarterly reports to the PSC. Ten students in the Hispanic Community will be confirmed in June of 2007. The total enrollment of Middle School and High School students in the Religious Education Programs is 130 now, the highest number in years.

The decision was made to enhance Evangelization efforts by groups working within each ministry. Evangelization efforts will be discussed at future PSC meetings.

Prologue

The meeting was called to order by by Bud McKenna at 7:05 p.m. Fr. George offered the opening prayer and remembered the dead for this month of November. The proposed agenda was approved. Joe Passarello volunteered to prepare the opening prayer for the December meeting. The minutes of the October 11 meeting were approved after about three typographical errors were noted for correction.

Comments from the Council and the Floor

Walt asked, "What should we do with the percept data?" Helen responded, "What would you want done with it?" Walt suggested that these data be utilized for parish purposes. Since the major growth in the Church is within the Latino group, we should determine where Latinos live, particularly by zip code. Registration data is being collected to facilitate the location of Latino clusters and neighborhoods.

Fr. George proposed that a committee be established to move this issue forward. The use of the percept data will be an agenda item for a future meeting. The report is available on email from Sr. Pat. Gerard recommended that a committee be named to- night. Bud, Mary, Susan, and Walt volunteered to serve on this committee.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fr. George announced that Susan Clingingsmith will send someone to represent the Catechetical Board at the meetings of the Pastoral Stewardship Council beginning next month. The Liturgy Board has developed a Liturgy of the Word for Children and is seeking to increase the number of Catechists for the K through 6 Grade Program.

Fr. George remarked that he was gratified by the Blessing of the Clergy ceremony last month. He thought it

was a very positive event for the clergy and also good for the Mass communities.

The last Newcomer's Dinner with the Pastor, which became a family dinner including children, was excellent but a lot of work. A new format is being considered involving a large number of newcomers at a potluck gathering.

The "Burning Bush" events are in need of a logo. All those with artistic talents are encouraged to submit their ideas.

The new procedure for entering information into the parish bulletin was presented. One goal is to establish the authorship of any article appearing in the bulletin.

The October Census of Attendees at Masses at STA Parish is summarized below:

OLR had two less in 2006 than 2005.

SAG had 37 more in 2006 than 2005 with a higher increase for the 5:00p.m. Mass

STA had 57 less in 2006 than in 2005 with 17 more at the 8:45 Mass.

The average total for weekend Masses was 1,625, which was 22 less attendees than last year (about a 1 % loss).

There are about 2,000 families in the parish (a total of 4,000+ people).

The percept data indicates about 12,000 Catholics in our parish area.

The result of the Parish Census indicates that Evangelization at STA parish needs to focus on two audiences:

1) reaching out to those not with us, and 2) taking care of our own. In addition, a letter should be sent to each site to acknowledge people for their contributions of time and talent for the benefit of the parish.

Fr. George emphasized certain practices to be followed during the Communion Rites. Lay Eucharistic ministers have certain duties, but only a priest or a deacon can purify the chalices.

Fr. George announced upcoming events:

Deus Caritas Est will be the topic for the Burning Bush session in November.

The 'Mass of Remembrance' will be offered on November 11th.

The Advent Schedule is being composed for distribution in early December.

Finally, the job description for Director of Religious Education is being revised. Also, all ministries are requested to send their reports to Mike Flynn, the Webmaster.

MINISTRY REPORTS

A discussion about the procedures for publicizing ministry reports ensued Helen suggested that reports (and also the minutes) should go into the bulletin. Mary thought that the reports should be posted. MaryBeth emphasized that this information should be readily available. Gerard recommended that a specific space in the bulletin be reserved for reports. Fr. George stated that the reports should include the name/signature of the author.

Bud provided this procedure for the publication of the ministry reports: All reports should go to Mary. She will edit the reports and send them back to the author. Mary then sends the edited and author-approved version to the bulletin. The whole report should be posted on the Web Site.

Hispanic Community Report

Jesse provided the highlights of the Hispanic Community Report, which appears as Attachment 1 to these minutes. The Young Adult Youth Group has about 30 individuals who meet every Friday evening. This group consists of working youths. Post Confirmation activities typically involve 11th and 12th graders. The Hispanic Community is a base for the *Cursilio* movement.

There are a total of 26 students in the three Confirmation Groups: the Pre-Confirmation Group, the First-Year, and the Second-Year Confirmation Groups. Ten students in the Second-Year Group will be receiving Confirmation on Saturday, June 2, 2007.

Adult Spiritual Development

Gerard gave an oral report on the activities of Adult Spiritual Development. Two programs/presentations were given during this past quarter: Fr. McDonald spoke on his ministry in Guatemala on August 24th. Fr. Kenan Osborne, OFM, gave a three evening mission on October 9, 10, and 11. Susan Clingingsmith is facilitating a Deanery-wide Basic Faith Formation program. One to four youngsters from STAY could attend. Walt suggested that we market this opportunity.

Tom stated that the time and date of future programs be selected carefully. The 'Burning Bush' program has reasonably good attendance on its Sunday afternoon schedule. Fr. George stressed that the method of communicating information about these programs is important. Susan emphasized that these programs should be broad based.

Gerard reported that spiritual activities are ongoing in the Small Faith-Sharing Groups, Centering Prayer, Faith Connection, and the Study Group. The last group has plans for expanded activities during Lent, 2007.

Fr. Tony suggested getting the names and email addresses of people attending these lectures/programs. This would be a way of informing them of future activities and reaching out to others.

Youth Ministry Board

MaryBeth distributed a detailed report on the Youth Ministry in the parish (also known as STAY). This report is included in these minutes as Attachment 2. She revealed that the administrations for the Middle and the High School groups are merging. The total enrollment in the two school groups is 130 ---the highest number in years! Fr. Tony stressed that the bilingual programs be continued.

New Business

It was recommended that committees be formed for the Mission Statement of the parish, the By-Laws of the PSC, and a Logo for the 'Burning Bush' sessions. The committee for the Mission Statement consists of Susan, Helen, Micky, and Marguerite and will meet on Monday evening. Bud reminded those present that the only Thanksgiving Day Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. at OLR with bilingual liturgy. He also suggested that Evangelical programs could be done under the guidance of a separate ministry at STA. That possibility was countered by the proposal that each ministry in the STA parish have an Evangelization group/effort.

Ruth thought that the 'Burning Bush' sessions were a good venue for Evangelization. Jim proposed that invitations to attend the 'Burning Bush' be extended to other congregations. Fr. Tony said that the people who come to daily Mass should especially be invited to 'Burning Bush' events.

Closure

There were some rumblings that the Agenda for PSC Meetings could be better managed. The next meeting will be held at OLR on Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

1. The Liturgy Board, the STA Site Committee, and the OLR Site Committee are scheduled to present their oral and written reports at the December meeting.
2. The Parish Mission Statement will be reviewed and updated.
3. The PSC By-Laws will be reviewed and updated.
4. Evangelization methods will be considered at the December meeting

ATTACHMENTS

1. Hispanic Community Report
2. Youth Ministry (STAY) Board Report