

## PASTORAL STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Minutes for the PSC Meeting on September 9, 2009

7 PM St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center

### Council Members:

Adult Spirituality-Gerard MacGuire	Human Concerns-Walt Lundin
Business Manager-Chuck Tully	Liturgy-Kay Williams
Catechetical Board-Jerry Lucha	OLR Site-Laura Chiu
Communications-Nichole Khan	Pastor-Fr. George
Community Life-Jeanne Ramos	Parochial Vicar-Fr. Thierry
Facilities-Jim McLaughlin	SAG Site-Kathleen Hart
Finance-Absent	STA Site-Lorraine Dabney
Hispanic Leadership-Juanita Marquez	Youth Board-absent

**Absent:** Rick Barry, Mary Clifford

**Guests:** Helen Bauman, Marguerite Purcell, Roland Quintero, Beverly and Neale Wade

### Prologue

Jerry called the meeting to order at 7-ish PM. Laura Chiu volunteered to do the Faith Sharing, which reflected our Green theme for tonight's meeting. Jerry reminded the board that the agenda is decided one week in advance. Members must add / correct the agenda draft in a timely fashion. The agenda was approved as amended. The July minutes were approved as written.

### Comments and Announcements from PSC members / Guests

Helen Bauman reintroduced the 1000 Congregation Campaign, and said she has been in touch with Walt Lundin as this falls under Human Concerns. She passed out copies of preliminary information on the campaign, which advised what we as a community can do to join this cause. She is looking for feedback.

### CLERGY REPORT

Fr. George stated that next year's Parish Wide Retreat will reflect the Year of the Priest. The group that put together last year's retreat about St. Paul is doing one on Year of the Priest. They are looking to schedule the retreat in January, sometime in the middle of the month. They will follow a similar format as last year's retreat.

Since last year's Time and Talent format progressed smoothly and successfully, we will do the same this year. The idea of stewardship will be presented in the homilies, and the Annual Report will be introduced the first week of October. The St. Francis Pledge will also be introduced that first weekend since stewardship includes concern for the environment. St. Thomas will have their T & T on the 11<sup>th</sup>, SAG on the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, and OLR on the 25<sup>th</sup>. OLR Site Chair Micky Martin expressed concern that Time and Talent will interfere with Priesthood Sunday, but we are not recognizing Priesthood Sunday this year since we will be celebrating it in January in tandem with the retreat.

Spiritual Tuesday Assembly (STA)-Members of Adult Spiritual Development and those who help with Burning Bush got together to brainstorm ideas for a night of spirituality. They decided Tuesdays work best for most people, and the gatherings are scheduled from 7-8:30 PM every Tuesday of the month. The first year of Tuesdays will take place at the SAG Hospitality Center, and then will move to a different site for the next year. The first Tuesday will be about Formation / Information; primarily catechetical, the topic will center on a foundation of our faith. The first one scheduled is October 6<sup>th</sup>, and is a follow up on the multi-faith panel on teen suicide that occurred earlier this year. The STA panel will discuss the Catholic response to suicide, and the panel will include some of our youth and our new Youth Minister. The second Tuesdays will be about Scripture Study and Faith Sharing, and this month will explore the Letter to the Hebrews. The third Tuesdays will take on Prayer and all its forms. And the fourth Tuesday will be Burning Bush: burning issues, questions, etc., and will be open-ended. The STA planning group plans two months in advance. Spiritual Tuesday Assembly notices will appear in the parish ebulletin, and Chris will also project these announcements at SAG and OLR. A poster with Velcro for ease of display change is also in the making to announce these events.

And in conclusion, Father George has Monday and Tuesdays off, and Father Thierry has Thursdays and Fridays off.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS**

### **OLR Site**

Let it be noted that Laura Chiu's paper copies were printed on recycled paper (some with printing already on the backside), which is very appropriate given our goal of Greening the Parish. Laura's report brought forth issues concerning flu season, and Jerry made a motion to acquire hand sanitizer for all sites' vestibules. Jim seconded the motion, and proceeded to inform us that steps have been taken, that materials such as hand sanitizer and masks have been ordered, and he is waiting on the Diocese to be more specific about when and where the materials are to be used. Laura pointed out our new bag incentive is parallel to what the Diocese is doing-they're encouraging churches / parishes to do the same. The site also discussed ways to increase food collection since people are hungry 365 days a year. Laura's report also reminded the other sites that a Clean Up day will be scheduled soon, and all sites are advised to label or tag items to be kept or thrown out. Gerard suggested giving sites ample time to determine if their junk could be recycled / reused. Other highlights from the report include OLR's desire to find / install inside recycling receptacles, and participating in a Bike / Walk / Skate to Church Day (date to be determined).

## **STA Site**

Lorraine presented the STA Site report which started with an update on the Thomas House. Some church interior concerns have been addressed by the committee, and they are hoping to improve the safety and aesthetics of the altar. The organ in the choir loft was moved, so the choir now has more room. Lorraine thanked Helen Bauman for facilitating the debut of the ringing of the church bell. She added that when you hear the bell, it puts you in the spirit for mass. Several summer events at STA church were highlighted in the report, including the display of the "Torture is Wrong" banner during the month of June, and the Father Thierry Welcome Garden Party held on August 9. In conclusion, Lorraine welcomed Father Thierry again on behalf of the STA Site Committee. Gerard then asked if STA was under consideration for a projector. Unfortunately, the interior of the church is too small for a projector.

## **RCIA**

Gerard presented a brief RCIA report on Jean Ramiccioiti's behalf. Currently there are 6 adults receiving Baptism at the 2010 Easter Vigil, 2 adults seeking reception into the Catholic church, and 4 un-catechized Catholic adults seeking confirmation at the Vigil. RCIA meets on Wednesdays, at 7:30, at the Pastoral Center. Most rites will be held at the OLR 10:30 AM mass, and children and teens in RCIC are invited to participate. A DVD of STA's "Evening for Ministers in RCIA" is being created, and will be shown on the internet and TV.

## **Finance Report**

\*It was mentioned that it would perhaps be best to have the Finance report in September, and to make that suggestion to the Finance Committee.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **STA Greening**

Gerard, Laura, and Walt gave a presentation about where we are in terms of the Catholic Green Initiative, and how we can get the message to our parish. They followed the Via-Veritas-Vita-VERDE! handout and added / expounded on some of the points. On October 4<sup>th</sup>, we will take the St. Francis Pledge. There will be bulletin and pulpit announcements before October 4 for the event. 500 Green Bags have been purchased and will be available to parishioners for \$1 / bag. They will be distributed next Sunday (Sep. 13). The movie "Blue Gold", about water scarcity, will be provided to the parish. Walt commented that they would also like to slip in the movie "The Story of Stuff". They are looking into solar for our parish; however, solar may not be cost effective in Palo Alto at this time (to learn more about going solar in the Diocese, see The Valley Catholic online, April 14, 2009, article). They are also looking into energy audits. An energy audit has already been done at the Pastoral Center. Laura Chiu explained the concept behind the Sounding the Alarm Bell on October 24. She said she attended the liturgical meeting, and heard about STA ringing the bell, so she thought a great way to advertise the number 350 would be to ring a bell 350 times. Noise concerns had her throttling back to 35 times. She wrote to the mayor hoping to get the whole city on board, and the city jumped at the idea. They are

trying to get 10 institutions to sign up, and each will ring a bell 35 times. Laura volunteered our bell towers at either STA or SAG to be our “alarm”. There will be a press conference about the event October 14. Another suggestion for greening our parish is to do away with all Styrofoam and plastic products at all parish functions. This will require the cooperation of each site. As mentioned before, a Walk / Bike / Skate to Mass Day is in the planning stages, but Walt encouraged us to do this whenever we can. Some members of our parish, including Mary Sullivan and Jerry Martinson, are forming a Green Committee and hope as it picks up momentum more will join. Father George mentioned that bottled water has been discontinued at all sites, and Gerard mentioned that the Diocese is coming out with a reusable Blue Bottle. Jerry commended the “Green Team” for their comprehensive report and all their efforts. Father George commented that “greening and stewardship are synonymous.”

#### Parish Picnic

We asked Jeanne to let us know what Community Life needed from us for the upcoming Parish Picnic (September 13). She asked us to please spread the word and encouraged the council to be there. They would like to welcome our new staff members at the picnic (Fr. Thierry and Chris Miller), as well as our newcomers. They do need volunteers as there was a mix-up with the dates and the Youth BBQ is scheduled for later the same day. So, volunteers are needed for the kids’ games and, as always, for clean-up. All utensils, plates, napkins, etc. will be compostable, and the cans and bottles will be collected for money. It is the first attempt at a green picnic. Father George commented that it was difficult to welcome newcomers since he never knows when they will be there and they come and go throughout the afternoon. Jeanne suggested that a time be set to welcome them. They could be notified of the time at the Greeting Table. Juanita cautioned that just because bags or bins are labeled “recycle”, doesn’t necessarily mean people will follow directions. She strongly suggested placing someone at each bin to direct recycling / composting / garbage. Also, she suggested having a tub in which to dump any leftover beverages.

#### Thomas House Update

The Thomas House Task Force is under the Building and Maintenance Committee and reports to that ministry. Lippert and Lippert are the architects hired for the Thomas House renovation project. The Thomas House received Historic designation by the city of Palo Alto, which will allow some aspects of the work to use less stringent set of building codes and result in a cost savings. We hired a historic architect to prepare the report for the Historic Review Board which resulted in the needed approvals. The architect has prepared a set of preliminary concept plans for all three floors of the renovation and met three times with representatives of the STA site to explain the logic of their design decisions and obtain site input. The next step is to refine the plans, obtain preliminary cost estimates, and issue an RFP so that contractor bids can be solicited. It is hoped that work can begin in early January.

#### Time and Talent

Time and Talent will follow the same format as last year. The dates for each site are: October 11 at STA, October 17 & 18 SAG, and October 25 at OLR. Each ministry should have plenty of Volunteer forms to distribute during the event.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 PM.

**ATTACHMENTS (not included in email)**

- a. Agenda
- b. OLR Site Report
- c. STA Site Report
- d. RCIA report
- e. Via-Veritas-Vita-Verde!

**Next meeting: October 14, 2009, SAG Hospitality Center**

**Faith Sharing**

-SAG Site

**Ministries to report**

-SAG

-Catechetical

-Youth