

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2010

Attendees: Father Bryan Parrish, Nick Lyons, Matt Savard, Neal Doherty, , Frank Tenaglia, Dominique Mathieu, Claudette Powers, Tom Murray, Mary Leahy, Katy Horgan, Father Sean Maher

- 1) Review of December, 2009 meeting minutes –approved; new process for approval will be as follows: send to council members for feedback/changes then to Father Bryan and Frank for final approval who will then hand off for posting to the website
- 2) ARISE – Neal Doherty reviewed initiative. The 4th season is beginning and perhaps 10+ new attendees are expected for this season. There was a Mass and dinner for all members 2 weeks ago that was a wonderful event – about 80 of the 130 participants attended. The nuns who started ARISE are trying to get approval from the Archdiocese to continue the program in some format. There are about 40,000 participants throughout the archdiocese. Concerns were expressed about local parish renewal focus versus an entire archdiocesan wide initiative.
- 3) Mardi Gras night on Friday January 28th was a huge success. Connecting Catholic Families and Footprints did an excellent job coordinating the event. Over 300 people attended including some from neighboring parishes. About \$750 was raised for Catholic Relief Services to send to Haiti. It was noted that it was good to see the fathers/men having a chance to socialize in the church environment. The liquor license, etc. had been handled by Diane Martin prior to the event.
- 4) “The Lights on for You”, noted Father Bryan, is a new program that will be conducted during Wednesday evenings in Lent starting February 24th from 6:30-8 pm. It is an opportunity for parishioners to celebrate Christ’s healing love through reencountering the sacrament of penance/reconciliation.
- 5) Youth Ministry within the Parish – Father Bryan is focusing on strengthening the Youth Ministry Steering Committee with additional leadership and attention. There has been some discussions with Bill O’Neill on how to do this. They are currently looking for more members – adults and youth. Father Bryan said that he has heard a lot of energy and ideas lately about the possibilities of this group and he is eager to foster that. Bill will come to our next Parish Pastoral Council meeting in March to speak with the group about future plans and how we as a council can support his efforts.

6) Improved Financial Relations Committee

Father Bryan discussed the activities of the above new committee that focuses on the financial relationship between the Archdiocese and the parish. The goals are to create simple, fair, and transparent models of accounting. Currently the parishes support the central ministries of the Archdiocese at a rate of 8-9% (including schools and hospital ministries). Holy Family will participate in phase I of a new initiative with 35 other parishes. Starting July 1, 2010 these parishes will contribute a 10% tithe to the Archdiocese that will be all-inclusive. Now, Holy Family (and the others) will have an assessment of parish base revenue instead of goals to meet. The Catholic Appeal should offset any increase in the tithing as 50% over goal will go back to the parish directly. This spring there will be a rollout of an increased offertory campaign that will be handled by a professional company.

There are currently 57 families signed up in the direct deposit program versus the envelope system. A discussion followed on how to inspire people to give to the Church in a more planned and thoughtful way rather than randomly on a weekly basis. In the past, generational givers had traditions of donating to the Church. Now, as young Catholics reenter or reencounter Church through the sacraments, perhaps more thought should be given on how to broach the issue at that time.

7) Adoration – Father Sean explained that every first Friday during Lent 24 hour Adoration will be held. A Bulletin announcement will be made to have parishioners wishing to participate to sign up for times.

8) Parish Ministry Questionnaires - need to be completed by our next meeting. Frank will send an email out to all Parish Pastoral Council members to remind them. The Parish Picture Book has been scrapped at this time due to the need to attend to more pressing needs.

9) Mass Schedules – were discussed by Father Bryan. In an effort to move on with the parish planning process there will be a need to reduce the number of masses offered on a regular basis on Sunday mornings. Currently there are 4 Sunday morning and we are going to go to 3. Planning needs to happen because this will impact religious ed schedules and the music ministry schedules. We will be discussing this in more depth at the next meeting in March

10) Miscellaneous

*Frank Tenaglia discussed ASP's kickoff talk at all the masses today. He also discussed the upcoming fundraising events, particularly pizzas for the Super Bowl, a Mother/Father's day car washing event, and the Easter pew raffle.

*Mary Leahy shared that the next book selection for the Holy Family book Club will be **Three Cups of Tea**. Also, the Club is trying to get a session for young readers with their parents sometime in March. Publicity about this will be handled by Mary and Catherine Kelleher.

*A discussion was had on doing a twinning mission with a parish in Haiti. It was decided that the outreach needed currently would be beyond the scope of what the parish could provide due to the horrific conditions from the earthquake. But research will be done for the future either there or somewhere else. Dominique suggested that the process start with sending some people for observation and discovery and then report back. More to follow....

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Sunday, March 7th at 7pm.