

St. Mary Pastoral Council Meeting
Minutes
February 19, 2008
5:00 PM
School Science Room

Members present: Alicia Ramage, Steve Givens, Jim Purcell, Mike Hamilton, John Fisher, Rhonda Wallace, Fr. Jerry, Rhee Fincher

Absent: Eric McArdle, Renee Minardi, Fr. Justin

Meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM by Fr. Jerry, and opened with prayer, followed by scripture reading (Ex 17:3-7) and brief discussion.

The minutes of January 14, 2008 were approved.

Fr. Jerry outlined the **parish goals for 2008**

- Transition in Pastoral Focus – from the Year of the Eucharist to the Year of Paul
- Enhance awareness and use of the Perpetual Adoration chapel
- Bring greater organization to the parish Commissions

Stewardship Commission (SC) discussion

- Rhee presented suggestions for enhancing the organization of the Commissions, which was followed by a rich discussion, and consensus recommendations.
- Recommendations from SC to enhance oversight of ministries, ensure each ministry has a leader, and ensure new volunteers from annual Stewardship Renewal are contacted
 - Fr. Jerry, SC, and leaders of the Worship, Service, Community and Pastoral Care, and Faith Formation Commissions to outline expectations of Commission leaders (e.g., oversight role for ministries and volunteer calls, meeting once or twice annually with ministry leaders)
 - Rhee expressed concern that the recommendation might engender negative feelings from some of the ministry and/or Commission leaders because one Commission would be in a supervisory position relative to other Commissions.
 - Additional observations by SC: Each ministry needs a leader, a few less functional ministries need rejuvenation, most ministries do remarkable work
- Discussion by Pastoral Council
 - Fr. Jerry wants strong SC that mirrors a presentation he heard recently at a national conference in which the pastor was very involved through empowerment and encouragement of the SC, and the SC functioned as the “right hand” of the pastor.
 - Fr. Jerry suggested he meet on regular basis informally with various Commission leaders. The group endorsed the idea of a mid-May meeting

- to facilitate transition from the Year of the Eucharist to the Year of Paul and, perhaps, also address strengthening the Commission responsibilities
- Fr. Jerry suggested utilizing the fall parish leadership meeting to emphasize where have been and where going
 - The group discussed the history of St. Mary's ministries and the fact that they are so different in size and goals that the same construct does not meet the needs of all. Some meet and some do not; some are one-person ministries (e.g., natural family planning); some that do not meet have no need to meet (e.g., linens). Some are quiescent, less than effective, or lack leadership – these are the ministries we should strive to rejuvenate.
 - Agreed upon recommendations
 - Identify the ministries that need “new life” and try to help them; leave the rest alone.
 - Ensure the ministry leaders know what they are supposed to do
 - Identify ministries that need leadership and help to identify a leader
 - E.g., Ushers: Some Masses work well (5 PM), but others (7:45, 10:30) less so. The usher ministry needs a leader.
 - Parish Socials
 - Some take lot of energy from parish staff (I think Fr. Jerry meant he would like volunteers to take more responsibility, but he did not say that)
 - Senior Lunch works well
 - Altar servers
 - Need to be sure someone helps Fr. Justin with altar servers so leadership continues after is no longer St. Mary's parochial vicar
 - Consider having a permanent deacon become the under-study of Fr. Justin, and assume oversight of the altar servers subsequently
 - Gathering: Bringing Catholics back into church
 - Used to be quite active, but is not currently
 - Discussed ministry questionnaire that was proposed by SC, and decided against it – address attention to ministries in need
 - Final recommendations
 - All commission leaders report to Pastor (not to SC or other commission)
 - Commission leaders know and accept responsibilities
 - Work with succession planning on an individual basis

Centralized payroll

- Diocese wants to begin in March with a biweekly rather than monthly pay system for teachers. Fr. Jerry is concerned because the switch would change take-home pay initially, although they will catch up by end of year. Nonetheless, they would take home less at first because they would be paid 26 times/year rather than 12 times.

- Fr. Jerry has queried why diocese wants to make change from monthly to bi-weekly at all, and is awaiting a response. He surmises it may be easier for diocese to fulfill its obligations with a bi-weekly payroll system. However, Jim Purcell pointed out that Fr. Jerry's interpretation of statute may actually be correct by *ajustis generum*
- Some small parishes received large fines for not paying payroll taxes; it appears as if all are being penalized for this infraction

Perpetual Adoration

- Paul Zielinski, the new leader Perpetual Adoration, had cardiac surgery and is healing well.

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher
Recorder