



Saint Joseph Church

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Dear Parish Council Members:

The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be the January Open Forum Meeting. It will be held in Guild Hall on Saturday, January 12, 2007 starting after the 4:00 Mass. The snow date will be Monday, January 14 at 7:15 PM in the Parish Center Basement. More information regarding this meeting will follow in the minutes. Meeting Agenda: Will be sent out under separate cover.

Minutes of the November 12, 2007 Meeting

Members in attendance: Brian Brady, Kathy Brady, Katherine Broderick, Jean Degan, Kim Donahue, Fr. Joe DiSciacca, Lisa Kean, Tom LaPorte, Maria Ludena-Bendezu, Mary Jane Mamed, Mark Monnerat, Fr. Jose Mercado, David Methe, Lisa Monckton, Neil Richter, Rick Swenton, Pat Smatt, and Kathy Young. Two visitors were present: Mary Lynne Boisvert and Paul Contrastano.

Opening Prayer led by Kathy Brady.

There were no New Issues/Concerns raised.

Father Joe made the following comments:

1. The Archdiocese has produced a DVD for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal to be shown as the homily during Mass the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Father Joe has decided to do this at a Hospitality Sunday in December instead. Rick Swenton suggested that it could be viewed on the church website as long as it is permissible to do so.
2. The Archbishop will be celebrating Mass on TV at 10:00am Thanksgiving Day. Tune in if you can!
3. A Stewardship card will be placed in church pews at Masses the week before Christmas, at all the Christmas Masses, and at Masses the week after Christmas. It was suggested that cards be placed in the back of the church to ensure everyone has access to them. The purpose of the cards is to give parishioners and visitors an opportunity to request information about St. Joseph and Catholicism.
4. Fr. Joe is happy with the way the suggestion box is working, however he is finding that some of the suggestions will need to be placed on the agendas of future Parish Council meetings. Some of the suggestions include having a greeting at the beginning of the Mass similar to the "Sign of Peace", more Pot Luck suppers, holding a parish-wide tag sale, and having a special collection to raise money to redecorate the restrooms in Guild Hall. The suggestion for a special greeting at the beginning of Mass will be passed along to the Liturgy Committee for review.

Agenda Review – Old Business

- Jean Degan, Director of Music Ministry, addressed the issue raised at the October meeting regarding possible elimination of music at one weekly Mass, specifically Sunday 7:30am. Jean presented a handout addressing this request. Jean answered this question based on the General Instruction of the Roman Missal #40 which, to summarize, states that each Mass is equal, and that is why there is music at all Masses at St. Joseph Parish. For more information on this, please review the handout (attached).

- Open Forum January 2008

Discussion Notes:

- Date set for Saturday, January 12, 2008 in Guild Hall following the 4:00 Mass. All council members are asked to attend.
- Dinner will consist of soup, bread and beverages. The room will be divided into two sections: one side will be set up for the meal and the other side will be set up with chairs to encourage conversation.
- Rick Swenton's help will be enlisted for audio.
- Volunteers to plan the January meeting are Tom La Porte, Maria Ludena-Bendezu, Kathy Brady, David Methe and Mary Jane Mamed. Planning meeting dates will be in late November and early January.

Lisa took an opportunity at this time to remind the council that they should let us know if there are ever any questions with the minutes.

Reminder - There is no Hospitality Sunday this weekend.

New Business – Eco-Stewardship discussion

- Copies of handouts were provided for further reading: The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, launched by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and a news article titled "Vatican warns ecological damage has biggest impact on poor".
- Lisa Kean provided the council with information about a program being held at Our Lady of Calvary Retreat House that will focus on the UN Earth Charter. The program is to be presented by members of The Passionist order. There are day and evening programs available. Interested council members can find out more information from OLC's website.
- Paul Contrastano, a parishioner who has done extensive electrical work for our church, was asked to participate in our discussion in order to familiarize us with energy conservation initiatives that have already been undertaken in the parish. He provided us with a handout entitled "Implementation of Energy Conservation Measures at St. Joseph Parish". The handout has information on the current state of the heating and lighting systems at the school, parish center, and church. This information sparked discussion during the meeting with regards to "operator education" and upgrade recommendations.
- Recommendations included:
 - Installation of two new oil burners in the school.
 - Replacing the church's current burner to a dual fuel burner.
 - Education of all users. This includes people who attend Masses and use the church, users at the school and people who operate the appliances and lights (in Guild Hall kitchen for example).
 - Educational tools can include information in the bulletin, and signs and checklists in all facilities so users understand appropriate operation of lights, heat, appliances, etc.
 - A request was made by our guest, Mary Lynne Boisvert, to inform parishioners that we recycle at the church and school.
 - Mary Lynne Boisvert also inquired about the feasibility of installing solar panels at the school. Mark Monnerat will have a committee at the school look into it.
 - The group agreed that there is a need to tell others in our community what we as a parish are doing in the interest of helping the environment. It is important to become more conscious of this topic within our parish, school, homes and our community.
 - Council members were reminded that another book, *Faithful Stewards of God's Creation*, has been purchased by Fr. Joe and is available for borrowing. Written by the USCCB, it outlines the U.S. Catholic Bishops' stance on climate change and the responsibility of all Catholics to be good stewards of the Earth. More information is available online at USCCB.org.

Tom La Porte offered to lead prayer at the February meeting.

After a short closing prayer the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa Monckton
 Recording Secretary