



Saint Joseph Church

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Dear Parish Council Members:

The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be held on Monday, October 20, 2008 starting at 7:15 with prayer in the Parish Center Basement. Please let yourself in through the front door or through the double doors facing the school. Meeting Agenda: Will be sent out under separate cover.

Minutes of the September 15, 2008 meeting

Opening Prayers were prepared by Mark Monnerat.

Members in attendance were:

Brian Brady, Kathy Brady, Mary Ellen Casey, Katherine Broderick, Jean Degan, Kimberlee Donahue, Fr. Joseph DiSciaccia, Tom Dwyer, Fran Ficocelli, Magdalis Figueroa, Patricia Jodoin-Nelson, Lisa Kean, Tom LaPorte, Mary Jane Mamed, David Methe, Lisa Monckton, Mark Monnerat, Neil Richter, Patricia Smatt, Rick Swenton, and Kathy Young,

Talia Lopez and Alice Hazlet were visitors to Parish Council this evening.. Talia Lopez attended to offer informational resources regarding immigration matters that would be of interest to our Parish. Pat Smatt will contact Talia to arrange a presentation of addition information for Council members at a future date. An information table at the Annual Food Fest regarding immigration assistance was offered to Talia and her organization. Details were to be discussed with Kim Donahue after the meeting.

After a brief welcome and self introduction of council members, Fr. Joe led a short review of Council By-laws and roles of Council members. Following is a brief overview of his remarks:

- Members were reminded not to send out general emails to council members.
- Council is an advisory body to the Pastor and cannot operate without the Pastor being present.
- The Pastor has a responsibility to listen to the advice being offered but does not have to carry out all suggestions made during the council meetings.
- Council is the eyes and ears of the Parish. We can bring to the council any concerns brought to us and we can encourage visitors with concerns to attend meetings.
- The membership is limited to 25 including ex-officio members. Diocesan recommendation is to not include staff members, but because it is at the discretion of the Pastor, our Staff members are to be a part of the St Joseph Council. It is being considered at a later date to possibly exclude part time staff members for automatic membership.
- Meeting attendance is extremely important to the success of the council. Please call in advance to let us know if you cannot attend a meeting. If you miss more that 2 consecutive meeting, you will be asked to re-evaluate your commitment to the council. The schedule for the parish council meetings has been emailed to everyone.
- A time change for the meetings to begin at 7:00 versus 7:15 is being considered.
- Members are requested to attend Hospitality Sundays and the Annual and semi-Annual meetings. Please wear your name badges!

- The Council is designed to be a table of dialogue, organized and respectful. We work through issues by consensus. Everyone has something to offer, and input is valuable. A timer will be utilized during discussions to insure that everyone is given a fair amount of time to express his/her ideas and opinions.

The Parish Staff members have been asked to lead prayer each month and have been scheduled for future months. Volunteer lay council members will be asked to team with a staff member for the next month. Prayer at the October meeting will be led by Jean Degan and MaryJane Mamed. Suggested guidance for prayer preparation can be found in the “Quest” booklets and monthly issues of “Today’s Parish”.

Members were reminded that additional information resources regarding Parish Councils include the publication “Co-Workers in God’s Vineyard” and The Mark Fischer website:
<http://homepages.roadrunner.com/markfischer/index.html>.

Fr. Joe attended the Leadership Roundtable during the summer. The roundtable is sponsored by a national group out of Philadelphia which is recognized by U.S. Catholic bishops. Topic of meeting looked at the leadership and management styles in churches today and how to implement the principles that were learned. A magazine article Imagining Abundance article was passed out and members are asked to read it for discussion at the next meeting.

By Laws and Mission Statement: A committee was formed to review the parish mission statement to ensure that it is correctly driving what we are doing within the parish. Changes may be made to the mission statement if necessary to accurately reflect the Parish’s goals and objectives. Committee members include Pat Smatt, Lisa Kean, Tom LaPorte, Mary Ellen Casey, and David Methe. Fr. Joe will be consulted and included as necessary.

Review and Discussion of Issues raised at the Annual Meeting

- There are many needs for the Bilingual community, especially welcoming ideas. This will be a continuing topic for discussion. Some things being worked on include a bilingual phone system in the Parish office, bilingual office help to be hired and bilingual signs for the front of the church.
- The request for a Pro –Life corner in the bulletin and vestibule of the church and more involvement by the Parish with regards to Pro-Life issues is up for discussion by the staff. Tom Dwyer will be presenting opportunities for involvement during the “40 Days for Life” campaign period. Details will be forthcoming
- It was suggested as part of a response to the request for an International Day that members of the ethnic groups of our parish dress in national costume during the upcoming Taste of St. Joseph event.
- It was decided that the parish should perform some sort of survey to determine the need for a Disabled Children’s support group and the kinds of services these parishioners may need.
- The request for conservation of energy by limiting the amount of time that the spotlights in front of the Church are on and consideration of rearranging the handrails in front of the Church were directed to the Building and Grounds committee for further consideration.

In the interest of time, the remaining issues were tabled for discussion at the October meeting.

New Business

In the How are we Doing department, so far we seem to be doing fine!

Following a closing prayer, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa Monckton
 Recording Secretary

