



## ***Saint Joseph Church***

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Dear Parish Council Members:

**The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be on January 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

### **Minutes of the October 17, 2009 meeting**

Fr. Joe prepared opening prayer.

#### **Members in attendance were:**

Fr. Joseph DiSciaccia, Fr. Israel Rivera, Jean Degan, Lisa Kean, Kim Donahue, Brian Brady, Kathy Brady, Tom LaPorte, Lisa Monckton, Mark Monnerat, Patricia Smatt, Kathy Young, Jason Pawlik, Dean Plourde, Joyce Weglarz, Lynne Callnan, Michael Cambo, and Peter Chabot

Welcome to our new member Lucy Jusino.

**Visitors:** Talia Lopez

#### **Comments from the Chair:**

- The next meeting of the parish Council will be held on January 25, 2010.
- The layout of the new post cards that will be used to solicit email addresses from parishioners is done.
- Open Forum critique:
  - Should we rethink our menu and serve a casserole or something easier to serve?
  - What do council members think about the discussions/attendance at the meetings?
    - School parents were noticeably missing from the meeting. Should parish council reps attend the St. Joseph School meetings for about 20 minutes and convey to the parents that their input is important at the Annual Meetings? Should council members attend senior meeting as well?
    - Responses/suggestions from the council:
      - Answers during the meeting got off-topic.
      - A timer should be used to control comments.
      - Offer a specific topic that people would find interesting/ relevant for discussion in order to increase attendance.
      - People may not be attending consecutive meetings because they feel that they have already attended and have nothing additional to contribute.
- Holy Family Forum Report
  - Tom, Lisa, Kathy and Pat attended the Holy Family Forum Report. The presentation encourages parishioners to give and do their best for the parish. Issues affecting the lack of stewardship from parishioners include apathy, lost of trust in government and leadership, and fear of the unknown. Solutions offered were to encourage parishioners to view life as a sacrament, trust their instincts, involve children and young adults, be creative in soliciting talents, and empower the laity of the church

## **Presentation by Lisa Kean regarding Parish Council Research/Lay Ministry Project**

The Archdiocesan Lay Ministry Formation program was created as an effort to encourage laity to heed baptismal call to use gifts to help parishes. The program requires students to attend weekly classes over a two-year period, develop a project area in conjunction with input from the student's pastor, complete homework and reading assignments, consult with an assigned mentor, and to attend an annual retreat. Upon completion of the program, the student is commissioned by the Archbishop as a lay minister within his or her chosen ministry.

Lisa's project area is pastoral planning. Her project objectives are:

- To assist the pastor in developing lay leadership in the parish through the vehicle of the Parish Pastoral Council.
- To better identify, attract, train, support and retain council members – in short: the formation of councilors.

Lisa's project goals include:

- Creation of a councilor's handbook,
- Creation of brochures, handouts, bulletin inserts, website blurbs that explain the role of the council and highlight qualities of successful councilors.
- Institution of an annual council orientation workshop with suggestions for structure and content.
- Coordination of council "professional development" days, days of reflections, and retreats.
- Completion of final report and recommendations for Fr. Joe.
- To strengthen the qualifications of individual councilors, thus enhancing their ability to assist the pastor in identifying and responding to the needs of the parish.

Lisa's deadline for completion of the project goals is February 2010. We wish Lisa our best in her endeavors!

## **Depression Support Group**

The group is off to a good start. Announcements will continue to run in the bulletin. Periodic reviews will come from the people who started the group.

## **New Business**

Open Forum Meeting Notes Review – Fr. Joe

- The stewardship committee is designing a survey.
- If we had a 5:00 Mass on Sunday, it would take the place of the 8:00, 10:00 or 12:00 Mass.
- A Parish center is not practical or financially feasible at this time.
- Priests do not take census.

The fridge magnets are done.

Things are going well in religious education.

Neil and Lynne will do the prayer for the January meeting.

Other Comments from Fr. Joe

- Thank you letters went out from the Archbishop's annual appeal.
- Next Sunday there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Monckton  
Recording Secretary