

St. Joseph Parish – Pastoral Council Meeting – Minutes

Date: 1/23/2012

7:00 PM

Parish Center

Meeting Called By: Fr. Joseph Disciacca

Type of Meeting: Advisory - Strategic

Facilitator: Tom LaPorte (in absentia) Jason Pawlik

Note Taker: Lynn Callnan (in absentia) Brian Brady

Attendees: Mark Monnerat, Patty Smatt, Jean Degan, Kimberlee Donahue, Lucy Jusino, Kathy Young, Rick Swenton, Christopher Matt, Deacon Neil Richter, Jim Babicz, Janeffer DelValle, Jorge DelaValle, Jason Pawlik, Fr. Joseph DiSciacca, Michael Mickiewicz.

Minutes:

1. The end of year financial status of the parish is complete. Fr. Joe will be presenting 2011 results at each of the masses on a designated weekend in February.
2. The new Parish Mission statement is still under review. Fr. Joe would like input from more of the members from other parish ministries such as the Lectors, et al. The Pastoral Council members have already provided their feedback. Fr. Joe would like to have the final draft ready for the Feb. 13th PC meeting before it is released to the general population of the parish.
3. Managing the Bulletin Boards in the vestibule needs to have a more formal process. Fr. Joe suggested that we need to form a team of volunteers that comes from various church organizations. This should include members from the PC (1), Staff (2), School (1), and Spanish Community. (1), etc. Ultimately, Fr. Joe would like about 8 volunteers. This team needs to take a comprehensive look at the vestibule, which needs to be rearranged and cleaned up. The process should include how to schedule which group(s), within the parish should be able to use bulletin boards to publicize their message or their events. Example: before, during and after Catholic School Week the school should prepare bulletin board(s) for their events. All told, the group should decide what needs to be done and who will work on the boards; set up an annual schedule of major dates that need bulletin boards; prepare an Action Plan for all to follow.
4. Kathy Young spoke regarding the near completion from Integrated Software, the Archdiocese vendor of choice for sending out emails to parishioners. This will allow various weekly activities to be sent to parishioners for information, promoting events and to send spiritual reflections from the gospel. This can also be done for the Spanish Community as well. Some concerns were discussed about using photos of children under 18 on the internet without signed permission.

5. Parish Photos were taken almost 5 years ago. It may be a good time to do it again. The vendor that we used was Owens Mills (sp) and our contact Steve Boisvert, is no longer working for them. The deal was free photos that were published in a free album to those who participated in the program. The main advantage is to have one place to go to for identifying other parishioners, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, etc. We could attempt to do this by ourselves; we could take digital photos and get online publisher software to do this. It is a big project. The last time we used the vendor 200 family photos were taken. That is out of 1,000 on our registry. We cannot have anyone bring in photos that may be the property of a professional photographer such as a cruise ship or wedding photographer. Action: Digest it. Comments: This is a major undertaking. There is a lot of heartache for anyone who volunteers to do this rather than using an outside vendor.

Discussion:

Members of the council were asked to read an article by Bishop Howard J. Hubbard (Bishop of Albany) titled "Failings of the Church". The article discussed differences between older to younger generations and their cultural beliefs. Essentially, many of the parishes are anemic and lack many of the activities that make St. Joseph such a vibrant place. What we need to do is to identify things that we may not be recognized as deficiencies. What are WE missing?

One member made interesting comments on her personal experience, both as a married parishioner and also as a single one. She said many of our fellowship events are geared toward families, but do not promote single, widowed or divorced parish members. The verbiage alone is exclusive..."Family Food Fest" is an example. Rather, we should use inclusive language like "Come Alone or Bring a Friend". Being a member of the choir helps, but after she attended the Bereavement group she felt that her journey (within the parish) left her feeling undone. Let's be sensitive to those who are living single. The PC for example has no one in their 20s. We need to be more inclusive of all our parishioners.

Others said the school runs a survey to discover what the parents like or dislike. It would be good to ask what they need. Perhaps some activities, such as preparing new bulletin boards or working an internal parish photo album could be something our alienated members would like to do?? Fr. Israel suggested reaching out through the newspaper or the local community TV channels (5). The responsibility each of us has to the parish was also mentioned. Perhaps we can engage with Renaissance of Bristol and place a promotional (trifold) ad in Bare Bones or other gathering site(s) in town.

Fr. Joe said our closing remarks and prayers. The next meeting will be on Monday February 13 at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center.