

Meeting Minutes – PPC meeting January 26, 2010

Attendees: Steve Robach, Paul Lillyblad, Jeff Olson, Andrea Grasse, Pat Loew, Eileen Couture, Amy Moore, Fr. Mark Underdahl, John Carney, Mary Ann Henke

Commission Reports

Finance Commission

We received a \$50,000 gift from a parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous. He is at a point in his life where he wishes to give back to his church. Harry Larson, Amy and Fr. Mark met with this individual. He has a place in his heart for social justice and education, but has requested no specific areas for the money to be used. We will receive the gift May 1st, either in installments or as a lump sum. He has a foundation available, in the future, if we wish to apply for grants, or to help families in need.

Our six month financials through the end of December are on target with expectations. General operating expenses are in line with the budget. The balance sheet shows a net positive cash position of \$79,000. This is up from \$28,000 reported at November month end.

Budgets and expense reports have been provided to staff members in order for them to know where they stand with the programs they manage. This is welcome information that will help each staff person manage more effectively to their overall budget.

A change to the collection reporting in the bulletin will become effective in March. The Finance Committee will provide a recommendation for future reporting at our next PPC meeting.

Pastoral Care Commission

- Prayer Shawls are being distributed at a higher level.
- Senior Brunch after mass on April 16.
- Homebound Eucharistic Ministers held a retreat last week. It was a nice gathering, a speaker was brought in for the group.
- A luncheon and stations are scheduled for the seniors on March 18.
- The book group is still under considerations – looking for a person to take on leadership role.
- Took on the role of greeters at the anointing Mass in February.
- Each area of pastoral ministry is represented on the Pastoral Care Commission.

Social Justice Commission

- Archdiocesan Immigration Sunday was held in December.
- The annual Baby Shower outreach and baby bottle fundraiser was held in Jan. Donations raised through this effort are given to the Lakes Life Care Center.
- At this month's Global Family Weekend, the youth involved in the mission trips sold breakfast burritos and cinnamon rolls, and held a bake sale as a fundraiser for their trips this summer. Parishioner Ron Peterson shared information surrounding mental health awareness, and the Tuveson's were raising awareness about MS. Educating the public is an important piece of Social Justice.
- The commission membership does not change much. There is a core membership of about 7 or 8 members.

Mission Trips

- The Gold Plate Dinner did not receive enough support this year and has been cancelled.
- The kids and adults are paying what they can and supplementing with fundraising. The cost for the Guatemala trip is \$1600 and the cost for the Duluth trip is \$500.
- On March 21 the kids will be at the masses to be visible and gather support for their trips, and to advertise how people can get involved in their ministry. They will be inviting our parishioners to be a part of the experience.
- Our parish supports our mission trips with a net amount of approximately \$5000.

Unified Identity

The feedback results from the first weekend were presented and discussed. The preliminary results show that the tagline Together in Spirit was preferred over Celebrating and Serving Together. It was also clear that the names with St. Joseph Parish were not popular with the people who shared their feedback. Therefore, we were able to rule out that option. The two that are left, St. Joseph of the Lakes Catholic Church and St. Joseph Catholic Church seem to be fairly equal in popularity. Because there does not appear to be a clear favorite, the Communication Committee will meet after the feedback is gathered and formulate a recommendation for the council. The PPC will then meet on February 9 to discuss the options.

Visioning

2 Masses vs. 3 Masses on Sundays

We continued the discussion about moving to two Masses on Sundays starting in the fall. We agree that a benefit would be fuller Masses with more energy. We also agree that each mass has its own culture and personality. The possibility of parking issues was also raised if we move to two masses.

Two major tradeoffs emerged from the discussion: the fact that we need two family friendly Masses times (preferably 9:00 or later) and the thinking that we cannot ignore the needs of those who prefer an early Mass time (8:30 or earlier).

The following are the latest averages for mass attendance: 5:00 – 400, 8:00 – 250, 9:30 – 700, 11:00 – range of 250 to 850. The varied attendance at 11:00 Masses is believed to be dependent on Sunday afternoon events – like Viking games!

PPC members were asked to choose the two Mass times they think would work best for our parish if we were to consider the change. The following are those results:

- 8:30 and 10:00 – 3 votes
- 9:00 and 10:30 – 5 votes
- 8:30 and 10:30 – 3 votes
- 9:00 and 11:00 - 0 votes

We will revisit this issue at our meeting on February 9th. Steve will ask Chris to informally survey a few of her early childhood families to measure the impact on their participation. A firm decision must be made no later than the March 2nd PPC meeting in order to make preparations for any change.

“Happy Hour” after 5:00 Mass

Mary Ann and Jerry Lund are working with Amy to host the 1st social event after the 5:00 Mass on Saturday, Jan. 30. They will be serving cheese and crackers, cookies, cider and

coffee in the Gathering Space.

New Parishioners

The parish will be expanding the opportunity for new parishioners to join our parish. They will be welcome to register any time during office hours. It is our goal to be welcoming and more accommodating to new members. New member events will be held quarterly and attendance will not be required.

Blessings/Special Acknowledgments

Fr. Mark created a yearly schedule for the blessings and acknowledgments. He shared this with the PPC.

The next PPC meeting is on March 2, 2010. We will be providing and serving the soup for the soup supper. Mass and our meeting will follow the supper.

Respectfully Submitted by Co-chairs,

Mary Ann Henke
John Carney