

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2009

PRESENT: Joan Bartkowski, Jennifer Vail, Sue Monroe, Trina Murphy, Richard Bishop, Jamie Lockman, Paraic Neibergs, Fr. Jeff, Steve Strothman, Ken Smith, Jim Bell, Sr. Doris, Kirsten Hanga, Kurt Wambaugh

ABSENT: Christine Whitlatch, Jennifer Blood  
Fr. Jeff opened in prayer.

Reviewed minutes from October: Accepted

### I. Updates

CCM- Kirsten provided an update on Catholic Campus Ministry. CCM is collaborating with Emmaus House and LDSA (Latter Day Saints Association) on a needs drive for Hunger Awareness Week. More information will be available in the bulleting this weekend. Jaycee and Becca will be contacting the other Catholic parishes to solicit participation. Theology on Tap will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the topic will be "relationships" presented by Mike Frost. SEARCH was held on October 23-25 and there were 17 participants. There has been steady participation in UNITE and other activities such as Spook-O-Rama with 35-40 attending. There has also been an increase in students stepping forward to lead small groups. The next activity is on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup>; students will go to Hot Springs. Kirsten is also finding the best way to communicate with students is through email.

Faith Formation- Kurt provided an update on Youth Ministry. Currently 10-15 middle school and 10-15 high school are participating on a regular basis. Activities are planned on a regular basis with a Halloween dinner last week and a bible study led by college students. The students will be selling Christmas cards after liturgy as a fundraiser. A bake sale was held last weekend for two students to attend NCYC and they raised \$600. Kurt is also sending out a newsletter to the students to keep them updated on activities. Fr. Jeff will email council members a copy.

Fr. Jeff- Fr. Jeff shared that we just found out that we need to replace our boiler. No details are available yet because he still waiting to hear from the diocese and to meet with the plumbing company about whether we actually need a new boiler or can replace parts. The parts needed are very expensive so it may be in our best interest to replace the boiler. The garage at the parish house is also in need of repair.  
Discussed the status of our budget. We are at(-\$18,000) compared to (-\$11,000) last year. The finance council will be reviewing where we have made cuts and where we need to go for future.

Jeff also shared that the Stewardship council suggested we show slides at the beginning of each liturgy as a communication tool. If anyone has feed back about this idea please let staff or Jeff know.

The ACA current status is at 11% participation and 27% of our goal. It is important to note that we are one of five parishes that receive funding back from ACA in the amount of \$31,000.

Other Updates- It was suggested for next year that we have a 5:30PM liturgy for All Saints Day and possibly have a potluck afterwards. It was apparent many people were touched by the invitation to remember loved ones who have past.

## **II. Monthly Standing Committee/group- None**

## **III. Old Business- None**

## **IV. New Business**

A. Living Stones- Fr. Jeff handed out the data compiled from the first meetings regarding Living Stones. Jim Bell discussed a technique for scoring the information that may be more accurate and helpful in parish planning. He gave the council a brief overview of the technique and will be sending an email of the survey and ask that each of us rate the information again using the tool Jim discussed.

There was discussion of the next set of meetings scheduled for Sunday (8<sup>th</sup>) and Tuesday (10<sup>th</sup>). He asked for volunteers to be scribes and table leaders. The topic this time will be "How the needs of the diocese will be accommodated with fewer priests." Currently there are 59 parishes with 38 missions. 62% of the priests are over 60 years. Council members asked questions about the information and wondered if the diocese takes into account that some parishes do have deacons and if there is data available that compares each parish. There is fear that the diocese has made their decision about the parishes and some of the fear is valid. For example, the union of Holy Family and Pope Paul XXIII. Jeff has been asked if the diocese has already made a decision and he does not get a sense from the Bishop that is true and does trust the Bishop and what he has shared with the dioceses.

There was also a short discussion on the first set of meeting and the feedback was positive regarding those that attended. The only disappointing factor is that few parishioners participated.

B. Strength Finders-Fr. Jeff asked if everyone has finished the strength finder assessment. He is still planning to schedule a one-day retreat for all three councils.

C. Open Council Positions- Currently we have one position open for a community member, two positions open for high school students and three positions open for a college student.

Jennifer Vail attended the meeting at the invitation of Sr. Doris to determine if she would like to serve on the council. She had the opportunity to ask questions of the council and was given brief information about the council.

Jennifer shared her background with the council. She was a student at UM and attended Christ the King. She met her husband in Missoula and they have been living in Alaska prior to moving to Missoula. Her parents are Presbyterian and retired to Missoula so she felt the push to move to Missoula and feels she has found a place to call home. Her husband was raised Catholic and she is a convert. She and her husband have one child, Sadie.

The council offered to allow Jennifer to discern about becoming a member of the council and she stated she would make a commitment tonight. So we welcome Jennifer to the pastoral council!!

Also discussed the idea of having the pastoral council members be more visible in the parish. Jeff suggested having council members wear nametags during mass and to also make the announcements at the end of liturgy. Jeff will have a basket in the working sacristy for the nametags and those comfortable wearing them can pick them up. Fr. Jeff would also like to do a commissioning for the new council members.

D. There was no other business so the meeting was adjourned.

December meeting: December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7PM (Note the change of date)

Prayer: Jamie

Snacks: Jennifer Vail

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Bartkowski, Parish Secretary.