

# Meeting Minutes

## Saint Theresa Parish Pastoral Council

February 7, 2007

### Official Minutes

Parish Conference Room

Members attending: Fr. Chuck Kieffer, Rob Kubasko, Amy Caffarello, Neil Urban, Becky Henry, Sandra Smith, Kurt Hammond, Rick Raymond, Terez Sanguine

Members absent: Fr. Mathew Plathottam, Bille Young, Joe Sotelo

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### 7:10 Opening Prayer

Rob called the meeting to order and Neil shared a thoughtful reading from Henri Nouwen.

### 7:12 New Members

Amy announced that our two new members, Mary Muir and Dr. Vincent Berkley, will be joining us at the next meeting. She also has names of others who are interested for future vacancies. The council expressed their appreciation to Amy for her efforts in recruiting new members and to Mary and Vincent for volunteering to support our Parish in this ministry.

### 7:15 Approval of Previous Minutes

Rick moved; Terez seconded. The minutes of November 15, 2006 were approved.

### 7:20 Pastor's Report

**Liturgy & Spirituality:** Fr. Chuck gave reported that the new Holy Day schedule implemented on December 8<sup>th</sup> went very well. He was also very pleased by the unprecedented attendance at the Christmas Masses including overflow crowds at the early afternoon Masses. (4:00 & 4:15 p.m.) Any ideas or thoughts that you may have for future scheduling or venues for these Masses will be appreciated. We will follow the holy day schedule for Ash Wednesday on 2/21. Though not a holy day, these Masses are always well attended. A communal Penance Service will take place on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**Programs & Outreach:** Lenten soup and stations begin again on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and continue on all Fridays of Lent with the exception of Good Friday. Shannon Braccio is scheduling groups to set up the dinner and lead Stations of the Cross following the dinner. Rob will check on available dates for council participation.

The Jubilee project is winding down after an amazingly successful and rewarding year. Fr. Chuck publicly thanked Amy and Rob as well as other Council members for their efforts in support of Health Care for the Homeless. This project was the pinnacle of a long term Parish commitment to helping the homeless through Sr. Adele. Donation envelopes will be placed in the church again after the CDA drive is completed. Planning is underway for a second fund raising tea scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>. Sandra reported that our work has led to involvement by many other area parishes and individuals in support of Health Care for the Homeless. Fr. Chuck remarked on the need to coordinate the Parish efforts to continue support of Sr. Adele as our Jubilee project winds down. We want to continue our support of her work while ensuring that other outreach ministries, such as Intergenerational programs, Habitat for Humanity, and New Orleans relief get needed attention.

Our plans for a Ministry Leadership Workshop have joined with the Parish staff efforts to present an appreciation dinner for all

parish ministries on Saturday evening April 21<sup>st</sup> after the 5 p.m. mass. We may move forward with the idea of a brief survey for attendees. Those returned will be placed in a drawing for door prizes. Responses to these surveys could form a foundation for next year's Council to use for continuing dialogue with Parish ministry leaders.

The Why Catholic adult education materials have been received and reviewed. The advisory group for this program has suggested an alternative program based on the new book: United States Catholic Catechism for Adults. This recently published book is written in a format that will lend itself very easily to group study. It presents our catechism in 36 chapters with reflections, study guides, and discussion questions. Plans are underway to begin the presentation of this program in Fall 2007. Evaluation of the Dead Theologians Society program for junior high students is continuing to see how it will fit in with other youth ministries in the Parish.

**Facilities & Temporalities:** There has been wonderful response to the new organ and its beautiful sounds. Mike Barta is doing a great job of using the organ for liturgy in combination with some of the more contemporary instruments. The McMahon Center kitchen sink is in place and all licenses and permits are approved. One remaining issue is that the new range is not commercial grade which is needed for our uses. Fr. Chuck will be working on a resolution to this problem with the contractors and Diocesan building offices. Fr. Chuck also discussed some potential upcoming changes to the corporate structure of the Diocese and the individual parishes.

### 8:10 Old Business

**Kurt** reported that 2 St. Theresa eighth grade students will attend the next Council meeting.

### 8:20 Open Discussion

**Terez** expressed her interest in developing a new ministry for the newly registered members of the parish so that adequate follow up is ensured after the welcoming receptions. This new ministry will be an agenda item in an upcoming meeting to further explore the structure and goals of the ministry. **Amy** presented some issues and concerns recently expressed to her by several parishioners. She recommended that parishioner comments and suggestions be given a formal venue for discussion at our Council meetings. This may be something that could be given space on the web site for both questions and answers. **Rob** introduced a possible change to the Council by-laws regarding Council membership. This would apply to members appointed to fill a vacancy mid-year. He will prepare a draft of the change and present it to members for discussion at our next meeting.

### 8:50 Closing Prayer by Rob

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully Submitted Becky Henry, Secretary