

# Meeting Minutes

## Saint Theresa Parish Pastoral Council

**May 31, 2006**

### Official Minutes

The Home of Jerry and Pat McKenna

Members attending: Fr. Chuck Kieffer, Fr. Mathew Plathottam, Neil Urban, Jerry McKenna, Amy Caffarello, Becky Henry, Rob Kubasko, Thomas Petrola, Terez Sanguine, Billie Young and guests Pat McKenna and Mike Barta.

Members absent were: Kurt Hammond, K. Lewis, Sandra Smith, Mark Skoog and Joe Sotelo

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#### **6:00 PM - Mass and Dinner**

Fr. Chuck celebrated Mass and Neil began dinner with an opening prayer..

#### **8:01 PM - Approval of Previous Minutes**

Becky moved, Neil seconded, minutes were accepted.

#### **8:02 PM - Pastor's Report**

The Parish has wrapped up school year and is getting through First Communions and Confirmations now. Budgets are being finalized for the fiscal year on July 1st and for activities being planned around the academic year. Progress with the McMahon Center renovations are progressing a bit slower with revisions made to the plans based on inaccurate sewer line specifications and unanticipated asbestos removal in the kitchen. Bids are being accepted now for a new fire alarm system for the McMahon Center. Current projection is for project completion in mid-July. Planning for the new year and the Jubilee continue. No major staffing changes to report. Things are positive overall. Major revelation was scheduling of parish visitations in the Easter season as Dean at the same time of Confirmations. Fr. Chuck addressed the question of the division of his time between his duties as Pastor and his duties as Dean. Although challenging, being asked by the Bishop to serve is a call that cannot be ignored, particularly in that our Diocese is expanding rapidly and we have fewer priests to serve in key positions. The competent assistance of Fr. Mathew and an experienced Parish Staff has made it possible for Fr. Chuck to take on these extra responsibilities. Neil remarked at how these dual roles can be beneficial to our Parish. Becky also praised the Bishop's comments at a recent Confirmation to commend Fr. Chuck's service. The traditional role of the Dean is to help extend the Bishop's reach throughout the Diocese. But since the Bishop is still becoming acquainted with our Diocese, the Dean not only serves as the Bishop's delegate to the Deanery but also brings feedback from the priests of the Deanery back to the Bishop. A large part of the role of the Dean is building priestly fraternity among the diverse priests of the Deanery. The Central Deanery includes 19 Parishes/Missions plus Mt. Claret, 3 Catholic high schools, St. Joseph's Hospital and a number of religious communities and retired priests. The Dean visits each parish/mission annually in the name of the Bishop in addition to a quinquennial visit that is a more in-depth look every five years (about a day and a half). These will be done at about 2-3 per year. Fr. Mathew remarked at the depth of our Deanery and how much it helps to get to know other Priests. The Phoenix Diocese is one of the fastest growing dioceses in the country. We are seeing a growing number of missionaries now coming from across the globe to help serve in the United States. Anticipating and planning for this explosive growth is a primary concern of the Deans. Although we face some challenges,

there is a sense of vibrancy throughout the Diocese. Other ministries of our Deanery beginning to meet on a regular basis include Youth Ministers and Directors of Administration/Parish Business Managers. Discussion continued on how the Diocese will adapt and change administratively to meet these growth challenges. Fr. Chuck has also accepted an appointment by Archbishop Sheehan and the Vatican to be a Tribunal Judge. Amy and Billie voiced concern over whether parishioners would perceive Fr. Chuck's Diocesan responsibilities as a signal that the Bishop's intention was to move him from St. Theresa to full-time Diocesan ministry. Fr. Chuck is not aware of any such plan, and feels that he is valued by the Bishop Pastor of St. Theresa as well as in his diocesan roles. Terez noted that this can be seen as a testament to Fr. Chuck's leadership and the overall strength of St. Theresa Parish. Fr. Chuck also noted his gratitude to the Parish staff for continuing to keep the Parish running smoothly.

#### **8:40 - Old Business**

Amy reported on the Jubilee Service Project and recapped the Garden Tea Party on April 28th. 160 people showed up and raised over \$65,000. Sister Adele also has a new volunteer as a result of the event to handle some of her record keeping in addition to some new physical therapists who have also volunteered. Amy emphasized the wonderful job Sandra and the M.O.M.S. did. Sister Adele has placed the first family into housing based on the money raised at this event. A mother and two children who were the victims of domestic violence living with no possessions and minimal shelter. This family moved into their new apartment on May 20th. A second family of a mother with six children have been designated as the next family to be placed. Terez told the story of how one child was so happy to receive a new bed in preparation for moving in. The plan will be to designate a weekend in September promote additional giving opportunities or the Parish.

#### **9:02 - New Business**

New members were not able to be in attendance. Jerry, Mark and K are retiring members. Jerry explained how changes in his professional responsibilities precluded him from continuing on the Council. Fr. Chuck thanked Jerry for his service to the Council. Becky nominated Amy for President. Amy then nominated Rob for President. Rob nominated Amy for Vice President. Amy accepted for Vice President and Rob accepted for President. Becky accepts nomination from Amy for Secretary. Neil gave some closing comments and was presented with a book in thanks for his service as President.

#### **9:11 - Closing Prayer by Fr. Matt**

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully Submitted Rob Kubasko, Secretary