

Meeting Minutes

Saint Theresa Parish Pastoral Council

September 13, 2006

Official Minutes

Parish Conference Room

Members attending: Fr. Chuck Kieffer, Rob Kubasko, Neil Urban, Becky Henry, Joe Sotelo, Kurt Hammond, Terez Sanguine, Rick Raymond

Members absent: Fr. Mathew Plathottam, Billie Young, Amy Caffarello, Sandra Smith

7:05 Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order by Rob Kubasko who offered a reflection on examples of humility in our lives. Rob also welcomed the two new council members, Kurt Hammond and Rick Raymond.

7:08: Approval of Previous Minutes

Becky moved, Terez seconded; minutes of May 31, 2006 were approved.

7:10 Pastor's Report

Fr. Chuck began his report with the June 1st resignation of St. Theresa School Principal Peter Morkert. Peter is following an unexpected opportunity in the public school system. Fr. Chuck expressed his appreciation for the many gifts Peter brought to the school during his tenure. We are also blessed to have Assistant Principal Catherine Downey step in as Interim Principal. The search process is ongoing and Catherine has graciously agreed to lead the school while we work to find the best possible person for the permanent position. Mike Barta's new title as Director of Music Ministry will mean a stronger focus on developing the various musical groups in our parish. Tracy Theisen will assume the role of Facilitator of Liturgy and will schedule all liturgical ministers. To highlight the need for more volunteers in these areas, as well as Art & Environment, a Ministry Fair will be held after all masses the weekend of September 16th & 17th. Other staff concerns include schedule limitations of Cheryl Lienau, recovering from knee surgery, and back-to-back maternity leaves of Shannon Braccio and Christi Deg.

The renovation of the McMahon Center is proceeding more slowly than originally expected. We have passed the original July completion target. The kitchen work, new fire alarm system, and new tile installation are nearing completion. These delays when added to the staffing challenges led us to simplify the plans for the Jubilee celebration. The luncheon will follow the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, October 1st, and will be held in Father Feeney Hall, our first sanctuary! Bishop Olmsted will officiate at the Mass and is looking forward to sharing this milestone with us. A beautifully designed post card invitation is being mailed to all parishioners. Terez expressed appreciation for Fr. Chuck's efforts

during the renovation process, especially the attention to new features in the kitchen that will make work easier for all users.

Fr. Mathew is on vacation through September 20th enjoying a family reunion and a new niece in Northern California. Please keep Fr. Nick Floridi in your prayers as he takes medical leave for a short while.

7:50 Old Business

Rob reported on the Jubilee Project in Amy's absence. As Fr. Chuck noted, it is amazing that we have assisted 36 people in finding housing through the funds already raised in the parish. Of this group, 15 are adults and 21 are children. Some have been placed in temporary short-term housing and others have been established in apartments with rent subsidized for one year as they work to maintain employment and build resources to support themselves. On the weekend of September 23rd & 24th, a video detailing the Jubilee Project will be shown to parishioners at all masses. This will review efforts already in progress as well as introduce the envelopes for contributions and information on volunteer opportunities. Some discussion arose about whether this weekend might also be a good time to introduce Pastoral Council members at masses and enhance their visibility in the community. Sandra Smith is already planning the next MOMS tea party for May 2007. Fr. Chuck remarked on the extra benefit derived from increasing awareness of Healthcare for the Homeless. Many volunteers have come forward, including a medical records person and a veterinarian who has plans to assist in establishing a periodic clinic to attend to the needs of pets of homeless men and women. Neil added that an animal care shelter was in some of the original plans for the Human Services Campus but was cut. It is an important need and a possible future project for coordinating fundraising and in-kind corporate donations as well as volunteers.

8:10 New Business

Rob encouraged all members to be thinking of candidates to fill the two vacancies on the council. Names may be forwarded to Amy. Rob distributed a sign-up sheet for opening and closing prayers for all upcoming meetings. E-mail reminders will be sent to each individual prior to their assigned meeting.

Respectfully Submitted Becky Henry, Secretary

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Rob opened a discussion of his ideas as the new president of the Council continuing the excellent tradition of clear and open communication between the parish and our pastor. His plans include a project for the first part of the Council year, which he roughly defined as between now and the end of the year. Rob is proposing that we bring together all of the ministry leaders from the parish which includes 70+ ministries. He would like to see this be a start of a dialog with the ministries that will increase awareness of Council activities, increase support for volunteerism through the parish community, and give the leaders a venue for expressing current issues and concerns. The meeting will get everyone talking, help them find commonalities, allow a general assessment of both needs and strengths, and assist in defining goals for each ministry. A lively discussion ensued about this idea, with many expressions of enthusiasm and support for the plan. Kurt shared his experiences in this same type of meeting in his former parishes noting that it gives everyone a chance to learn about each other and discover just how much we are doing. Joe remarked that for very successful programs, such as Jr. High Alive, it will be important to focus on the quality of the services being provided not just on numbers of participants. All agreed that the main idea is to encourage the ministries to interact with each other and with the Council, ensuring that communication channels are open and all feel free to express their needs. Fr. Chuck expressed his support for the idea indicating that this will help all ministries see their place in the pastoral vision for our community. Rob and Kurt will work together to develop a framework for the meeting. Terez suggested a date of early November; Rob will follow up with scheduling.

Kurt asked for input on an idea of having two or three students from St. Theresa School attend some meetings of the Council to see an example of service to the parish community. Kurt indicated that the students were very impressed by a presentation given by Amy on ways we can all serve our community. Catherine Downey is enthusiastic about the idea and will select students with the assistance of the eighth grade teachers. The members indicated support of the idea for two meetings in the Spring and the possibility of this being an annual program.

Terez alerted Council members to two upcoming Called to Protect sessions on September 19th at 7 p.m. and September 23rd at 10 a.m. Both of these sessions will be in Fr. Feeney Hall and last 1.5 to 2 hours. Terez encouraged all of us to take advantage of these times to receive this excellent training that is required for all parish volunteers and staff. Additional sessions will be set for November. Fr. Chuck also expressed his appreciation of the value of the program and remarked that it truly demonstrates God's work in our world bringing awareness of the problem of widespread child abuse to more and more people.

Terez reminded all of the Council members that volunteers are needed to assist with set-up, serving, and breakdown at the Jubilee celebration on October 1st. Anyone who can donate an hour or two should let Terez know as soon as possible. Thanks in advance!

8:45 Open Discussion

Rob reminded everyone that the dates of the Parish Welcoming sessions are on the agenda and we are all encouraged to attend when possible. We have been blessed with good numbers of families registering in the parish in recent months and having Council members participate in these sessions would be a plus.

9:00 Closing Prayer by Fr. Chuck

MEETING ADJOURNED