

# Meeting Minutes

## Saint Theresa Parish Pastoral Council

**October 26, 2005**

Official Minutes

Parish Conference Room

Members attending: Fr. Chuck Kieffer, Neil Urban, Jerry McKenna, Amy Caffarello, Becky Henry, Rob Kubasko, K. Lewis, Thomas Petrola, Terez Sanguine, Sandra Smith, Joe Sotelo, Billie Young

Members absent were: Mark Skoog, Fr. Mathew Plathottam

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### **7:09 PM - Welcome & Opening Prayer**

Neil opened the meeting and Joe led the prayer.

### **7:13 PM - Approval of Previous Minutes**

### **7:14 PM - Pastor's Report**

Jubilee committees are coming together. "We Remember" will bring past parishioners together for reflections. A commemorative quilt is being planned as well as a new organ fund. The Christ the Redeemer statue, a gift from a parish family, has been installed. Its base of solid granite was a gift from Catholic Cemeteries. The same granite will cover the benches in the ramada by Christmas. A new sound system has been installed in the church. It was provided by designated gifts and not from the operating budget. Collections are above last year's numbers. 19 families have recently registered. Migration has been noted at the masses - more seem to be attending later masses. 16 people are in the adult RCIA program and another 15 in the pre-adults program. Junior High Alive had over 100 in attendance recently making it the largest of its kind in the area.

The annual stewardship mailer will be sent in November. A proposal is being considered to develop a summer school program integrated with other programs such as bible school. Terez and K suggested music be a part of these plans. School enrollment is up as well.

Fr. has been very pleased with the increased participation overall as a result of the ministry spotlights. Two buses of teens attended retreat recently. Sister Adele was named family physician of the year in the nation and he remarked on the blessing the sisters here are to the parish. The new church video system is still in the approval process. Advent books are on the way and new carpet and a new organ are under discussion.

### **7:53 - Jubilee Service Project**

Amy reviewed the process she used to focus on ideas and appreciated the council's contributions. Make a Difference was used to research potential projects. They suggested Maggie's Place, a community cleanup program, or Sister Adele's Healthcare for the Homeless (H4H) which provides medical services to the homeless. In a recent meeting, Sister explained that they really need help with everyday needs - new shoes, underwear, season items and food boxes in addition to

cash donations. Amy stressed their need to overcome the bureaucracy that inhibits the program's work as a county agency. Amy suggested either picking H4H or Maggie's Place. Several members enthusiastically suggested adopting H4H. Fr. suggested a raffle be a good closing item for the project. Amy and Sandra will coordinate a project subcommittee with a plan to launch the project in January.

### **8:27 - Amendments to the Council Guidelines**

Neil will lead a subcommittee to prepare these for consideration at the next meeting. K added that changes be in line with Diocesan guidelines.

### **8:30 - Themes of the Vatican Synod**

Tom spoke about the ongoing need for catechesis in the parish, a synod topic. Fr. mentioned the current efforts to develop adult opportunities. Joe cited examples as a student how lack of catechesis is a problem, but lowering the confirmation age will help. Fr. added how parents are now being invited to participate more fully in their children's religious education and sacramental preparations. An option could be to provide additional literature such as Catholic Update. Tom asked about attendance at Adoration on Thursdays and Fr. responded that it's a particular type of devotion good for some. Neil suggested that those interested in developing a deeper understanding of their faith should serve as an RCIA sponsor. Terez mentioned the possibility to connect this to the Small Christian Communities program. Fr. clarified that there are additional changes coming to the liturgy yet to be confirmed.

### **8:54 - Pastoral Council Meeting & Objectives**

Neil noted agenda changes and will add an open discussion period at the end of each meeting in the future.

### **8:56 - Open Discussion**

Terez asked if the council would adopt a family for the holidays. The council responded with opting to focus efforts on the service project and jubilee items.

### **8:59 - Closing Prayer was given by Billie Young**

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully Submitted Rob Kubasko, Secretary