

Meeting Minutes

Saint Theresa Parish Pastoral Council

January 16, 2008

Official Minutes

Members Attending: Fr. Chuck Kieffer, Amy Caffarello, Becky Henry, Mary Muir, Sandra Smith, Rob Kubasko, Billie Young

Members absent: Rick Raymond, Neil Urban, Vincent Berkley, Kurt Hammond

7:05 Opening Prayer offered by Billie Young.

7:08 Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2007 was moved by Sandra and seconded by Mary. The minutes were approved unanimously with one spelling correction.

7:10 Pastor's Report

Fr. Chuck began with a request for Council input relating to a request from an outside group to hold a prayer service and gathering at the parish. It was recommended that due to the potentially divisive political nature of this advocacy group for illegal immigrants, our permission for use of the parish campus be denied.

A review of the upcoming Lenten offerings followed. St. Theresa Parish will host many wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth during the 2008 Lenten season. These include Taize prayer, a communal penance service on March 10th, a Lenten mission with Monsignor Mike O'Grady, simple meals followed by stations of the cross on Friday evenings, and educational sessions on the US Catholic Catechism for Adults on March 13th, 27th and April 3rd. Full information on all of these activities will be in the bulletins.

Progress continues on the Diocesan restructuring process. An informational program for the key administrative staff from the central deanery parishes will be held on January 31st. All council members are encouraged to attend. Additional information will be included in the Catholic Sun and the parish bulletin as the steps unfold.

Judy Setzkorn, former principal of St. Theresa School, is currently on board as a volunteer assisting the school administrative team with process improvements and project review.

Fr. Chuck reported on response to the offertory program and the progress of renovations to the convent chapel. New floors have been installed as well as new chairs with attached kneelers. The chapel will accommodate 30 people and may become a venue for daily mass in the summer.

7:40 Old Business

A draft of a new parishioner welcoming letter was distributed by Amy and approved by all. It is a great way to respond to all attending the welcome receptions and let them know that the Council and staff are available to answer questions. The letter also introduces the new link on the parish web site which allows parishioners to send us e-mail. Thanks to Rob for the design and implementation of this link. E-mails will be received by Amy for response or referral.

7:50 Open Discussion

Amy distributed copies of responses received thus far to the Parish council interview questions previously shared. Please send her your responses via e-mail if desired. Additional discussion may be scheduled at a future meeting. We briefly discussed a new outreach effort for meeting the needs of the homeless involving Sister Adele called Circle the City. A recommendation was made to donate funds raised by Soup and Stations this year to this effort. Progress on the addition of new members was discussed. We currently have two openings on the Council.

8:00 Parishioner Feedback

Members of a morning catechism study group were asking about the best way to be aware of diocesan wide adult education offerings. No clearinghouse for this exists in print or on the web, although some information is included in the Catholic Sun. Mary will email Ryan Hanning at the Adult Evangelization & Catechesis office of the Diocese for additional information.

8:15 Closing Prayer offered by Becky who shared a prayer from a book called *Prayer without Borders* published by Catholic Relief Services.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Becky Henry, Secretary