

Blessed Sacrament Parish aspires to be a model Christian community, disciples of Christ, in communion with the universal church, in service to each other and our greater communities.

We speak with diverse and inclusive voices, united by our Catholic Faith and Eucharistic Celebration.

**BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
February 13, 2010**

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Mattingly, Deacon Fred LaSpina, Kim Maggiolo, Yolanda Blake, Liz McDavid, George Collins, Hillary James, Pam Murphy, Marcia Pearce, Colleen Slipka, Maria Pena Taylor, Scott Hammond, Cathy McClatchy

ABSENT: Lorena Sanchez, Chip Studwell, Pete Adams

The meeting was called to order at 9:05AM, with a prayer led by Fr. Tom

Raffle Update

Cathy informed us that we netted \$10,500 in our TV Raffle. The winners of the 54" TV were Tim and Caroline Bill. The winners of the \$100 Super Bowl Party Napoli gift certificate were Jack and Patricia Crouch. Cathy thanked all who helped make this raffle a success, particularly Pete Adams, Mindy Morrison and Bev McGowen. She also reported that many fund raising ideas have been shared and discussed for the upcoming year, with the intention of making most of the fund raisers affordable to all of our parishioners. These could include: dinner/auction, dinner/concert, back-to-school computer raffle, cookie walk, golf tournament and 50/50s.

Wine Tasting Fund Raiser

Kim reported that this Wine Tasting event was a big success. She thanked Scott Hammond, Colleen Slipka, and Hillary James for all their terrific help in preparing and serving the foods and clean up. Fr. Tom said all tickets sold were a profit to our building fund - since the food was all donated by Parish Council and the wine was donated this year also. He assumes the funds raised were around \$2,000.

Hospitality Ministry Proposal

Marcia distributed a typed proposal for a formal ministry structure to provide an initial welcome to new parishioners, beyond the formal registration. This would include forming smaller parish communities within our parish, each one headed by a leader called "shepherd". The parish would need to be divided into geographical areas, and volunteers needed to establish this. Fr. Tom distributed maps of our parish's geographical area. Much discussion followed - Kim said she could get the High School and Grade School population maps that we might also use for our parish, which includes a large area of Rockingham County. After much discussion, members said they could see this being a benefit to the parish, but also feels we would need a staff Volunteer Coordinator to make it successful. Much discussion was held on this topic. Fr. Tom said he would present this plan to the Office Staff for further discussion.

PC Membership Discernment

We will be needing volunteers for Pastoral Council Membership. Four members' terms are ending this year, and one alternate member is needed also. Much discussion followed. It was decided that an "ad" for this would be put in our bulletin. P.C. Members were also asked to bring 2 nominees names to the next meeting. Our Discernment Meeting will be held on April 10th, at 1PM, after the regular P.C. Meeting. It was also decided that a member would speak about the need for P.C. volunteers at each Mass on March 7th. These will be: 5PM- Liz and/or Pete; 8AM - Scott; 10AM - Hillary; 1PM- Maria. Kim also agreed to call Randy Hook to ask if he would assist at the Discernment Meeting.

Bishop's Visit

Bishop DiLorenzo is scheduled to visit our parish on March 7th. He is expected to be at the 1PM, Hispanic Mass, and meet with the Hispanic parishioners afterwards. They are asking the bishop to give careful consideration and make a strong effort to provide a Hispanic Priest to our parish, at least once a month- for Mass and Sacraments. There is a big need for a priest who speaks and understands Spanish, as well as Spanish customs, culture and social issues. Yolanda said that a finger food reception would be provided by the Volunteer Moms, a parish Hispanic organization. Several P.C. Members stated that they would also attend this meeting and report back to Council what took place. They are: Marcia, Pam, George and Scott.

Easter Vigil Reception

Pastoral Council members host the reception after Easter Vigil Mass, welcoming our new members of our Church. The Easter Vigil Mass will begin at 8PM, and should last at least 2.5 hours. Cakes will be ordered and provided by the parish budget for this, as well as some foods. Kim said she would email Ernie Thompson asking her to ask if CCW would provide some finger foods. We will also ask Pete Adams to ask Kof C members if they would like to contribute to this reception. P.C. Volunteers for the reception are: 5:30PM Set-Up: Kim, George, Scott, Colleen, Yolanda

10:00PM Food set out: Marcia and Pam

Clean-Up: Liz, Marcia, Pam Food Shopping: Kim, Yolanda

Driver Property

Fr. Tom distributed outlines of the Driver Building across the street from the church that previously had the Simmons Cut & Tan in it. He is considering the possibility of renting a portion of that building, since a communal grocery is planning to rent the remainder of the building. Renting this building would give us legal access to the parking lot across the street, as well as proper space for our Food Pantry, which is much needed. We would have to see if we could afford to include the rent and utilities on this building in our parish budget. After much discussion, Council Members agreed that this building would be a real benefit to our parish, and Fr. Tom is going to propose it at the next Finance Council Meeting.

Voice of the Pastor

Due to all the bad snow weather and Harrisonburg School closings, a proposal for changing parish office closing to correlate with JMU closing instead of the City Schools, will be discussed with the staff and the diocese.

With the bad weather, Mass was not offered last weekend, and attendance the week before was minimal. Recouping normal collection money is very important. Announcements will be made at Mass regarding this, and parishioners will be encouraged to use the Internet for donations to the church, just as they use it for paying their utility bills.

JMU Students from CCM will be asking us for donations to fund their alternate Spring Breaks. They are also planning and selling tickets to their Mardi Gras dinner to be held Tuesday in Johnston Hall.

The Immigration Office, staffed in our parish offices by Marta Meza, is being funded for the most part by our Diocese. Reorganization of the Diocesan offices has now put this under the supervision of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities is reviewing the various offices under its supervision. Fr. Tom expressed his concern about the long term plan for the office. Its operation currently revolves around Marta Mesa, and has since its inception. The situation in Harrisonburg has changed greatly with the increase in the immigrant population since the office began in 1987. Fr. Tom has asked the Diocese to consider if this office is meeting current needs. The location of the office in the parish offices is limiting. Since funding

might be an issue, he suggested that the Diocese investigate a collaborative effort with the broader faith community in Harrisonburg. This may mean relocating the office. He is waiting to hear from Catholic Charities on their decision.

Post Card Campaign: In March, the Diocese is asking us to do a Post Card Campaign asking for reform of our Immigration Laws. More info is forthcoming.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. We will have Masses at 12:10 and 5:30 in English and at 7PM in Spanish. Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays in Lent at 6PM in English and at 7PM in Spanish, with a Soup Supper at 6:30 PM.

The National Census: we will have a "Be Counted Stand" in our church lobby, for those who need it who have not had anyone come to their door.

Wireless: At popular request of CCD teachers, we are getting Wireless installed in our church basement and Johnston Hall.

Parking Deck: There are still meetings and talk about privatizing and increasing the parking in Harrisonburg. This could mean tearing down our present parking garage and building a bigger one, and charging a fee to park in it. We will keep up to date on this.

Lent Mission: On the Saturday before Palm Sunday, we will have a Parish Mission led by Cursillistas. This will include Mass, prayer, meditation; an in-house retreat until approximately 1PM. Details are still being worked out.

Kim, Yolanda and Fr. Tom said they would write a script for the ambo announcements to be made by Parish Council regarding the Volunteers needed for discernment. Liz was asked to get a copy of the current volunteer form letter sent to them by Jean, and also to send them some details for the bulletin ad.

When asked, Yolanda said the Familia/Amigos project had been postponed, partly due to the weather canceling meetings. Fr. Tom suggested that it might be possible to try a pilot program, using about five families, at the Parish Picnic on September 11th.

Kim reminded members to bring 2 names of volunteers for P.C. discernment to the next meeting.

With closing prayer read by Hillary James, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Liz McDavid
P.C. Secretary

Next Meetings: March 13, 2010 @ 9AM
April 10, 2010 @9AM, followed by Discernment Meeting at 1PM