

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  
January 9, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Fr. Tom Mattingly, Randy Hook, Chris Pipkins, Yolanda Blake, Kilders Giron, Keith Holzer, Kim Maggiolo, Cathy McClatchy, Liz McDavid, Mindy Morrison, Pam Murphy, Marcia Pearce, Maria Pena Taylor, Louisa Cahan

**ABSENT:** George Collins, Fred LaSpina, Rex Moyers, Chip Studwell

Randy Hook called the meeting to order at 9:15AM, with Fr. Tom reading this Sunday's Gospel, Mark 1:7. Meditation and sharing of thoughts followed.

Mission Statement

Chris Pipkins thanked Mindy for hosting our Epiphany party Friday night, and commented that a wonderful time was had by all; and he especially enjoyed including the spouses. He then distributed and read the preliminary parish Mission Statement. This was followed by much discussion, suggestions, and editing.

Council focused on the importance of the intention and dialogue in our two retreat meetings; coming up with the parish values in year one, and last year refining those values and creating our Mission Statement. Now the future task will be to enact our Mission Statement, throughout the parish, an ongoing task of the Pastoral Council. It should be a fundamental goal of the next Pastoral Council retreat: how are we united, and, if not, how do we unite and be inclusive.

The revised Mission Statement reads as follows:

Blessed Sacrament Parish aspires to be a model Christian community, disciples of Christ, in communion with the universal church [universal and church need to be lower case], in service to each other and our greater communities. We speak with diverse and inclusive voices, united by our Catholic Faith and Eucharistic celebration.

Randy Hook moved to accept the Mission Statement as revised; Cathy McClatchy seconded. It was put to vote and carried unanimously. Council members are working on the Spanish translation.

Our Parish Mission Statement is to be presented to the congregation in two phases:

**I.** In our bulletin and web site, immediately, in English and Spanish. We will let all our parishioners know we welcome their feedback. Invitations will be made to all church groups to read and respond to this Mission Statement. Fr. Tom said that he would e-mail the names of the heads of various parish groups to the Council Committee Spokespersons, so that they could communicate with them and get their comments on the Mission Statement. Revisions can be made if needed. It was decided that the Mission Statement should appear as a template on all Pastoral Council printed documents – Minutes, Agenda included; and at the top of the P.C. photo board in the hallway.

**II.** Council recommended that parish staff print the Mission Statement on small cards to be distributed to the parishioners on a weekend before Lent begins. The Mission Statement will appear again in the bulletin that week, with space for parishioners to write comments and suggestions to be placed in the Pastoral Council mailbox. Randy said he would talk to a parishioner about the possibility of creating some artistic banners, for presenting this Mission Statement in conjunction with our Building Fund Campaign; he asked Fr. Tom to let him know the exact date in February that this will occur.

The Third Phase would be the Council's review of the Mission Statement at their next Parish Council retreat.

#### Events

Council discussed the annual Wine and Cheese Event scheduled for Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Kim Maggiolo is the point person for coordinating food for this event. Council members agreed to donate food or money.

#### The Budget

Budget numbers were a work in progress. Review of them was delayed until February. Budget committee is to hear from Fr. Tom and staff about their projections for FY 2010.

#### Bridge Building Committee (BBC)

Bridge committee is developing a survey to help gather parishioner background information for their talents, experience, interests, etc. The committee questioned if the parish had a data program into which this info could be placed, and also if a volunteer could be found to enter this data. Fr. Tom suggested that they speak to Ernie Thompson about this. Marcia asked Fr. Tom if he could find out from other parishes if they had done something like this and find out how they did it. He said he would ask the priests whom he was meeting with next week.

The committee will make one change to an upcoming event: the International Festival will become a Parish Picnic. The date for this has not been set yet. The committee also will begin to plan and coordinate the Easter Vigil reception for this year.

### Lifelong Learning Committee (LLC)

Lifelong Learning Committee met. They want to meet with Bridge Building and add questions about Catholic formation and education needs to the survey that BBC is doing. The Committee decided it will focus on Adult and Young Adult Catholic Education. Trying to narrow the Committee's focus, members suggested ways to identify areas with largest concentrations of parish interest. . They urge Fr. Tom to set up a Lenten Retreat. Perhaps someone from the diocese could be found for upcoming Lent, with short notice, and start planning early on a Mission or Retreat for next Lent.

### Outreach Committee

Fr. Tom reported that the Haiti Christmas plaques and gift cards sale totaled about \$3400. This will all be used for food for the Haitians. A group of 5 parishioners will be going to Haiti in February. They have been given a \$10,000 donation by a parishioner to be used for an important project to be determined.

### **Voice of the Pastor**

Fr. Tom reported that over 100 Hispanic families have pledged to contribute to the Building Campaign. He also said that a parishioner has donated an emerald bracelet to be raffled off, and we will be doing that this Spring. She is also planning a fund raising dinner of fancy Hispanic foods. Father has a meeting with members of the campaign committee regarding the "Kick-off" for the Building Campaign, an event open to all members of the parish.

FOCA – Freedom of Choice Act - Fr. Tom said that our Nation's bishops are very concerned about this act. The bishops are saying it is too broad and far reaching, and are distributing post cards to all parishes, the last weekend in January, asking Catholics to write to their congressmen, telling them to vote against this Act.

The March for Life is on Thursday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the Kof C has a sign-up sheet in the Commons for the bus, which will leave the church after the 8AM Mass.

### Walk By Faith

Council discussed the Walk By Faith project, and had some questions about just how best to handle this diocesan audit of parish programs. The Bishop plans to meet with our parish on November. 22, 2009. Fr. Tom suggested that the chairs of this project talk to parishes that had done this already – in Waynesboro and Charlottesville, and he would give them the names of people to contact.

Chris Pipkins asked that the Minutes show that the two big agenda items for our February 14<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Council Meeting will be:

The Budget  
Walk By Faith.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 PM with closing prayer led by Randy Hook.

Next Meeting is: February 14, 2009