

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
October 10, 2009

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Mattingly, Yolanda Blake, Cathy McClatchy, Pam Murphy, Marcia Pearce, Maria Pena Taylor, George Collins, Pete Adams, Scott Hammond, , Hilary James, Chip Studwell

ABSENT: Kim Maggiolo, Liz McDavid, Lorena Sanchez, Colleen Slipka.

The meeting was called to order by Yolanda Blake at 9:15 AM, with prayer presented by Pam Murphy.

Parish Survey Presentation

Yolanda presented the data from the Parish Self-Assessment Report which had been compiled by Kim Maggiolo. (See attached). Pam Murphy also presented some of the findings which she had compiled in a Power Point presentation which may be offered to the parish when the findings are presented. There were 340 surveys turned in. The age group responding was predominately in the 36-60 year old group and were more women than men. Under represented were Youth and Hispanics.

It was further clarified that the bishop will be coming to our parish to discuss the results of this survey on November 22nd. He will speak at the 10AM Mass, and stay after Mass to meet with the Council and Parishioners to discuss the report further.

Much Discussion followed on issues that the survey invoked which were:

- How do the surveys coordinate with statistics from the Parish database?
 - Can we refine the database to be more reflective of parishioners and their needs?
 - Can we determine future directions for the Parish mission from the surveys?
- Some of the needs expressed were:

- How to find a direction for Adult Education – A two year approach to the program is indicated
- Need Diocesan support for local parishes so that volunteers can be trained locally
- Support may take the form of some kind of electronic media for training programs.
- Better communication from Religious Education regarding their programs is also a need.

Youth programs were discussed. Limited staff support hampers efforts to expand programs
The possibility of having a paid full time staff position may be an answer for future review.
Both Catechesis and Social programs are major elements of an active youth program. Input from the Diocesan Youth Coordinator and Father Curran may help.

It was also suggested that a more active program for welcoming parish newcomers be explored.

A prime area of need was parish facilities, expanding the capacity for meetings, making them more handicapped accessible for all activities, not just worship and providing a better solution for our aging meeting/office structure.

As the discussion progressed regarding future programs, Pete Adams suggested that we look at the document, Seven Habits for Successful Parishes. He has previously attended a training session on this and he will research it and provide us more information at the next meeting.

Sub-Committee Reports

Outreach Committee - Pam Murphy noted that the survey showed that parishioners are happy about current outreach efforts and the committee was considering putting council-led outreach efforts on hold for a year to assist with higher priority goals of the council.

Father Mattingly reported that he has experienced difficulty in trying to do jail visitation. The jail protocol does not lend itself easily to allowing even ministerial visitors to come in. He will contact and work with a representative of the Hispanic alliance to see if a better solution can be reached.

Lifelong Learning Committee - Scott Hammond reported that this committee will be meeting in early November

Bridge Building Committee

There was considerable discussion on the project of the Ambassador Families that had been previously suggested by Yolanda in previous meetings. The members present felt that this was a good start in achieving better liaison between the Anglo and Hispanic communities. Following today's council meeting, the Bridge Building Committee will meet to explore issues and times to get this project underway.

Building Campaign

Cathy McClatchy noted that they are considering a "Cookie Walk" as a fund raiser event in December.

It has been suggested that a "Ministry Challenge" be instituted to try and involve active parishioners in our various ministries who use our facilities so much and who best understand our needs, to sponsor some fund raising activities to rekindle on-going interest in this effort. Ideas on possible events were noted.

Father explained that this project needs to start with the Council itself. On further discussion, the council decided to explore some fund raising venues or events and set a goal for the Council of \$7,500.00 this year. Pete Adams volunteered to lead a task force of other council members to organize this fundraising effort.

Upcoming Events

Newcomers Dinner - November 7th Council will be providing part of the food. It will be potluck style. A list was passed for those present to volunteer. Other Council members will need to be contacted. George Collins and Pete Adams will bring Entrees, Scott and Hillary will provide salads, Marcia, Monica & Cathy will bring desserts.

Epiphany Party - A possible date is Friday, January 8th. Several parishioner homes were suggested and Kim will be asked to pursue these or another site where we can meet.

Wine and Cheese party around Valentines Day - Many comments were exchanged about the high quality of this event. Council members decided that they would prefer to donate funds for food to an event organizer, as was done last year, than bring a hodge podge of their own foods. As Kim did such a sterling job last year, it was thought that she might be convinced to take a leadership role to make it happen again this year.

Closing prayer was offered by Marcia Pearce.

Respectfully submitted by: Marcia Pearce