

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
September 19, 2009

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Mattingly, Kim Maggiolo, Yolanda Blake, Liz McDavid, Cathy McClatchy, Pam Murphy, Marcia Pearce, Maria Pena Taylor, George Collins, Pete Adams, Scott Hammond, Colleen Slipka, Hilary James, Chip Studwell, Joe Goldsmith, Jean DePiro, Louisa Cahan, Ernie Thompson, Valerie Blanton, Mike Rozmus, Odile Proctor.

ABSENT: Lorena Sanchez

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM, with prayer led by Pete Adams.

Annual Financial Report

This annual report was presented to us a member of the Finance Council, Mike Rozmus. Detailed finance handouts were reviewed and discussed by all present. This Financial information will be given in a handout to the congregation on October 10 and 11th, with a further presentation made between the 10AM and 1PM Mass on Sunday.

Parish Survey Presentation

Pam Murphy and Marcia Pearce reported some information on the surveys returned by our parishioners. Comments had been reviewed, and the majority listed and discussed. It was also discussed how the results of this survey would given out on October 17 & 18th, and that there would be a presentation made between the 10 and 1PM Mass on that Sunday.

The bishop will be coming to our parish to discuss the results of this survey on November 22nd. He is expected to speak at the 10AM Mass, and stay after Mass to meet with us and discuss the report further.

Special Needs of our Hispanic Community

Much discussion evolved regarding establishing a good connection between the Anglo and Hispanic communities in our parish. There is some language barrier, particularly with the parents, since many of them speak little or no English, and some don't read at all. It was stressed that we all should make a concentrated effort to smile and say hello to all. Hispanics have a strong reliance on the Catholic Church, and their heritage and traditions. Maria Pena Taylor pointed out that some needs were: Adult Activities, Youth Activities and Traditional Activities. Valerie stressed the importance of personal relationships with others. Jean DePiro suggested that once a month a 1PM Bilingual Mass could be celebrated, with the English speaking children doing a Reading. Pam Murphy suggested that this could be preceded by a coffee and donut social, while the children are in religious ed classes. This time might also be used for learning some English and Spanish - using flash cards, etc., keeping it simple. Maria said it was very important that we share our love for Jesus in the Mass, and other religious opportunities, based on our common Faith. Fr. Tom said that leadership is needed to help bring the Anglos and Hispanic families together - possibly matching families with families. This is something that must be developed by the Bridge Committee, setting up guidelines and goals. Pete Adams volunteered to be part of the Bridge Committee.

Sub-Committee Reports

OutReach Committee - Kim Maggiolo and Pam Murphy noted that this sub committee also involves Fred LaSpina, and Peace & Justice Committee. Fred told Kim that he felt the Pastoral Council could best do "PR" work for various social ministry needs, that we support them and get "people on board" to help. Our Food Pantry is doing very well, especially with all the donations now given by Wal Mart. Our parish also helps support "People Helping People", "Your Place After School", and the Free Clinic, with finances and parishioner volunteers.

Maria asked if we could have our priest go to the local jail and visit prisoners, some children of parishioners, and some illegal citizens. Fr. Tom spoke about how he found it difficult to get into the jail to visit people, and that he had been told that the families must request a visitor, and put his name on a list; he said he would have to find out more about the process for permitted visitors.

Lifelong Learning Committee - Louisa Cahan noted that the other members of the committee are Liz McDavid, Chris Studwell and Scott Hammond. The Committee met last winter, and had several ideas that she was intending to initiate, but then she got cancer. We are considering a Mission during Lent, and there is a series of films on other religions that Fred LaSpina is beginning, We are also trying to begin the Little Rock Bible Study and Fred and Louisa are working on getting some facilitators trained to begin it. We are looking in to getting a Catholic Speaker to come and possibly speak during the Religious Ed period between Masses. Fr. Tom mentioned how they had also discussed opening up RCIA classes to everyone about once a month - with topic noted in the bulletin. Louisa said that she is working on forming Advent groups focusing on the Sacraments. Hilary James suggested Advent groups for children.

Bridge Building Committee

Yolanda said there was nothing more to add after the Anglo/Hispanic bridge building had been discussed, but that she would schedule a meeting to work on this. She added that she would like to have more people on this committee. She was reminded that Pete Adams had volunteered to be part of it.

Hilary James said that YAM could use some social activity, service type project or sports activity involving the JMU students.

Fr. Tom asked if we should increase our New Parishioner Welcomes, and it was agreed that they should be. It was suggested that these be done monthly or quarterly, and possibly handled by CCW, Kof C, and/or Pastoral Council. After some discussion, it was decided that we would have a New Members Pot Luck supper after 5PM Mass on November 7th. Jean DePiro and Liz McDavid volunteered to help arrange and host it.

It was noted that Pastoral Council Members would be introduced at all the Masses this weekend, and, if possible we should try to be at the beginning of 5PM, the end of 8AM, the beginning of 10AM and the 1PM Masses.

Kim Maggiolo adjourned the meeting at 2:50 P.M. Closing prayer was led by Marcia Pearce.

Respectfully submitted by:

Liz McDavid
P.C. Secretary

Next Meeting: October 10, 2009, 9AM