

St. Cecilia Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2011

In Attendance: Fr. Connolly, Michael Case, Jim Martin, Camille Rea, Mary Gibbons, Patty Bond, Kyle Kowaleski, and Bob Davis. Excused absences: Mike Lotz, Michelle Spohn, and Pat DeVoss who also wants to be on the Westside Deanery Council.

Father opened with a prayer.

Purpose of the meeting: To talk about the role, structure, purpose and function of the council.

In Father Connolly's view council serves as an advisory board to the pastor. It is one of several advisory boards. The others being the Finance Committee, the School Board and S.P.I.C.E.

Fr. Asked to input as to what we thought council could do better and for areas of needed improvement.

Michael Case said that when he was on council years ago he felt it was more task oriented than goal oriented. They would do things like the Easter vigil reception, and read reports.

Fr. Leo said that different groups within the parish act separately and sometimes don't realize that their actions can affect other groups or the parish at large. Fr. Leo feels that Council should be a funnel for information from the different groups and to perhaps see conflicts and try to resolve them or arbitrate them.

Father feels certain events should be in the Council's area of responsibility, such as the Town Halls, holiday mass schedules to name a few. Father has gotten the RCIA group's agreement to be responsible for the Easter vigil reception.

Father has asked that all groups put any event that affects the life of the parish on the master schedule for the parish.

Father wants to rejuvenate Adult Faith Formation and the Welcoming Committee. The Welcoming Committee member(s) would greet new parishioners on an agreed upon Sunday with perhaps a gift basket and welcome packet. They could talk about the parish and perhaps see what activities, ministries or groups the new parishioner might pique their interest.

Both the School Board and Finance Committee are supposed to have a liaison to the Parish Council.

In the past we've tried to have written reports submitted. We've tried to have liaison show up at council meetings to give their reports for their groups.

Father would like to start or revive Parish Retreats, Renewals, and/or Missions.

Father called for council members to volunteer to liaisons to different parish groups.

- Jim to be liaison to the Finance Committee and related activities/groups.
- Michael to be liaison to the Liturgical and Spiritual related activities/groups.
- Camille to be liaison to the Education related activities/groups.

There has been a shortfall in (offertory) revenue. This year we are around \$80,000 in the red. The church has somewhere in the \$200,000 to \$300,000 range in reserves. Lately, some expenses have been capital improvements, such as; roofing, the new driveway, and sealing the parking lot. Discretionary spending must now have prior approval. Budgets are being reviewed. The mortgage on the lot across the street is \$1000/month. There is around \$26,000 in principle left to pay on the mortgage.

Next meeting is October 5th.

The meeting in November will be on the 9th.