St. John’s Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2010

Present: Fr. Bert Thelen, Fr. Pat Malone, Fr. Roc O’Connor, Bob Austria, Mary Lee Brock, Linda Daly, Linda Hayek, Anne Lawlor, Rita Sherman, Connie Shonka, Jerry Stender, Richard Super

Absent: Jackie Arnason, Janet Heaney, Sean Joyce Whipp

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The group began the meeting in prayer, led by Connie Shonka.

Approval of minutes. The minutes of the October meeting are under review. Since the Council Secretary was absent from the meeting, it was decided that corrections should be sent to Connie, who will update and then send the minutes via email to all for approval.

Pastor’s Report. Fr. Thelen reported that his recovery from hip surgery is complete. He, Fr. O’Connor and Fr. Malone have discussed Bert’s return, which will take place on November 21. Fr. Malone will remain at St. John’s as Associate Pastor. His duties are being discerned at this time.

St. John’s 125th Jubilee in 2012. Fr. Bert let the group know that 2012 also marks the 50th anniversary of the 2nd Vatican Council. He suggested, and the Council agreed, that this important anniversary be folded into events celebrating St. John’s 125th Jubilee.

Student Soup Supper. Linda Hayek said the supper, held on Sunday, November 7, went very well. There were fewer students this time (approximately 50 students, as opposed to over 100 last year). Good weather and an earlier start time (4:30 pm) may have contributed to the lower attendance. The event had good support from parishioners. We will reserve Lower St. John’s earlier next time so that the event can be held from 5:30-7 pm, which should be a better time frame for the students.

Thanksgiving Dinner. Kathleen Denne has this event well organized. Approximately 15 parishioners have signed up to help. Fr. O’Connor is encouraging strong Jesuit attendance and Fr. Malone will look into options for having music at the dinner.

Hospitality/Funeral Luncheons. Anne Lawlor presented a proposed item for the parish newsletter to solicit volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up at funeral luncheons. Lower St. John’s will be offered at no charge to parishioners. Food will need to be ordered by, and at the expense of, the family. The Council will seek a Chair for this committee. Anne is also drafting a piece to be posted on the parish website.

Hospitality/Reserved Pew for Those with Disabilities. Vivian Amu installed a sign in the front pew so that people with disabilities now have a “reserved seat.” Kudos to Vivian for handling this request so quickly.

Pastoral Council Retreat is scheduled for February 5, 2011. Fr. Thelen, Connie Shonka and Bob Austria will plan the agenda for the retreat.

Upcoming Changes in the Roman Missal. Connie reported that a group walked through the changes with Fr. O’Connor and Tony Ward. Council needs to come up with a plan for educating the parish before the changes take place (Advent 2011).
**New Business:**
Fr. Thelen reported that David Sholl has been hired as liturgist. His anticipated start date is December 1. We will do something at Mass to welcome/install him in his new ministry.

Fr. Thelen and others from the Pastoral Council and St. John’s community attended a recent Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) meeting to discuss immigration issues. St. John’s is committed to being a voice on this important issue. It was suggested that the movie “9500 Liberty” be screened for interested parishioners.

Reminder: Parish Christmas Party is set for **Saturday, December 4.**

There being no further business to come before the Pastoral Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Lawlor