

**St. John's Pastoral Council Meeting  
March 10, 2009**

Members Present: Bob Austria, Linda Hayek, Lillian Rossiter, Connie Shonka, Jerry Stender, Richard Super

Pastor: Fr. Bert Thelen  
Guest: Al Howick

**I. Opening Prayer** Connie Shonka opened the meeting with a prayer.

**II. Approval Of Minutes** The minutes of February 10, 2009 were approved.

**III. Pastor's Report** Fr. Bert has purchased the book used at the Pastoral Council Retreat, "Letters To Exodus Christians" by Edward Hays. Copies will be distributed to all members of the council  
Consideration for mass schedules and presiders continue. All alternatives are being explored.  
Fr. Bert reported that he is working with members of Campus Ministry to examine ways to involve more parishioners in marriage preparation.

**IV. Council Member Reports and other Discussion Topics**

Jerry Stender volunteered to coordinate a dialogue and information gathering effort with persons who would like to give input on scheduling of priests and masses at St. John's. Jerry will report the results back to the Pastoral Council.

Options for displaying the gifts of quilts, given to St. John's by Pine Ridge Reservation, were discussed. It was agreed that Jerry Stender will work with Kathleen Denne to have a metal bar made and mounted on the back wall of the sanctuary. From this bar will be hung a quilt and since our church has received several quilts, they may be rotated in keeping with the church year.

Pastoral Council Retreat Report:

Linda Hayek summarized The Pastoral Council Retreat and defined the retreat focus as being three areas which were prioritized from the Hospitality Survey. The three areas and resulting projects with their leaders are:

1. Serving or facilitating gatherings and receptions where food is offered.

The reception following the Easter Vigil Mass will be used as a model for planning and documenting a procedure to be used with future gatherings/receptions.

Project Members: Linda Hayek, Jerry Stender, Lil Rossiter.

2. Development of follow through mechanisms on some other key existing hospitality offerings or those identified in the Hospitality Survey.  
Registering and Welcoming New Parishioners.  
Provision Of Information About The Parish  
Offering Tours Of The Church  
Examination of Parishioner Data Base to verify accuracy and to identify talent and interest in ministries.  
Project Members: Mary Lee Brock, Kathleen Denne, Jenny Tilleman, Bob Austria
  
3. Increase Small Group Participation at St. John's with focus on Creighton Student Population:  
Plan and host a food and discussion event for students in Lower Saint John's before the end of the spring academic semester.  
Document the event and share the results with the Pastoral Council.  
Project Members: Sean Joyce-Whipp, Benjamin Lowndes, Matt Oberst

#### **V. Guest Reports and Discussion Topics:**

Al Howick reported on the "Leadership Conference" held in Los Angeles. Participants were diverse in sociological and demographic composition. Topics of the conference were:  
A model for leaders in a strong connected community.  
Understanding institutions as they relate to individuals and community.  
The role of faith institutions in making a better community for all.

Leadership training will be offered in June to interested persons in our local community. Dates are June 10, 11, 12.

Al is working with Rita Sherman in planning two Faith Formation Sessions focused on building and connecting within our own community. Interested Council members are encouraged to participate in that planning. The sessions will be held on April 19 and 26

#### **VI. Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.  
The next meeting is:

April 14, 2009

Respectfully Submitted,

Lillian Rossiter

