

MINUTES
St. John's Pastoral Council Meeting
October 14, 2008

Present: Linda Hayek, Bob Austria Sean-Joyce Whipp, Ben Lowndes, Lil Rossiter, Matt Oberst, Connie Shonka, Jennifer Tilleman, Ben Lowndes, Miriam Thorn
Parish Representative: Kathleen Denne

I. Opening Prayer

Connie Shonka opened the meeting with a prayer.

II. Introduction Of Members.

Linda Hayek, President, welcomed the new council members; Miriam Thorn and Sean Joyce-Whipp. Members introduced themselves.

III. Approval Of Minutes

The minutes were approved with two corrections: Campus Ministry has moved to the Lower Level of the Swanson Bldg.

Tony Ward's concert will be delayed until further notice.

IV. Pastor's Report – Given By Kathleen Denne

- Water damage repair on the W side of the sanctuary has been completed.
- Fr. Mahowald was rehospitalized but is now out of the hospital. He will not return to say masses until after the first of next year.
- The remaining ambulatory screen will be installed in November.
- Enrollment in the Religious Education program has increased this year.
- Rita Sherman reports good attendance at the current Sunday Faith Formation series. Rita continues to offer weekly Wednesday evening discussion groups but at this time there has been no participation.
- Members of the Renovation Steering Committee plan to meet and prioritize completion of the remaining church renovation.
- Parish donations are down especially in the month of July. A full report will be given to the Financial Committee.
- A report on organ repair will be deferred until it can be presented by Tony Ward.

V. Guest Reports:

- Sr. Donna Marie McGargill gave an overview of the Sunday 4:30 and 9:00 pm masses. She explained these masses: who attends, the current format and the liturgical changes that are being suggested and introduced at 8:30 pm on three successive Sundays. Sr. further explained that the trial 8:30 pm masses include music while still offering time for silence and reflection. Sr. Donna stated she has received some student feedback on the first of the 8:30 pm masses although attendance was down for that mass. Sr. distributed copies of the liturgy for the first trial 8:30 pm mass. After fall break, the liturgy team

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plans discussions to determine how to proceed. The Pastoral Council will be invited to attend those discussions. Sr. Donna Marie also emphasized it has been difficult to find liturgical ministers for the 4:30 mass, Pastoral Council student representative Ben Lowndes indicated that some students, who attended the meeting after the 4:30 pm mass on September 21, later expressed concerns. The students stated, in the presentation they learned more about the changes for 9 pm mass and less about the resulting impact on the 4:30 pm mass (such as the change in music support). He asked that these students voices be heard after the fall break. Sr. Donna Marie assured him that would be the case.

- OTOC – Omaha Together One Community
Al Howick, a member of the OTOC Steering Committee, thanked the Pastoral Council for the support St. John's Parish has given to OTOC . Al will attend advanced leadership training at the Southwest IAF Regional Training to be held November 17 to 21 in Los Angeles.
Al encouraged Council members to participate in the OTOC Fall Convention on October 26, 2008. The convention will be held at the Teacher's Administration Bldg-OPS at 3215 Cuming Street and is scheduled for 3:00 pm.
Al also gave an informational summary on a meeting on the Just Faith Ministries attended by parishioners and Council members, St. John's staff and Campus Ministry. A General Overview is available from the Just Faith site, info@justfaith.org. A sub-committee of St. John's parishioners and Creighton University representatives will meet to review the program and with a larger group consider implementing Just Faith in the fall semester of 2009.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

- Hospitality Services Sub-Committee
The committee of Jerry Stender, Ben Lowndes, Jenny Tilleman, Kathleen Denne and Lil Rossiter have met and recommend that the need for and parish willingness to support enhanced hospitality offerings be evaluated and measured. The Council approved the sub-committee's recommendation to hold coffee and information sharing events after the Saturday 5 pm and Sunday 8:00, 10:30 am and 4:30 pm masses on the weekends of December 6 and 7th and 13 and 14th. The planned events will be communicated in the bulletin and persons who have expressed an interest in hospitality involvement will be called in advance of these events. A report of the outcome and recommendations for further action will be made to the Council.
- Goals Sub-committee – The committee of Matt Oberst, Connie Shonka and Linda Hayek met and developed recommendations based on the work of the 2007-08 Council, particularly the Pastoral Council Retreat Summary and the ME25 results and follow-up.
The group recommended three areas of emphasis (selected from the Retreat Priority Summary).

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1. Worship/Faith Formation/Contemplation
2. Inclusivity/Hospitality
3. Communication

VII. New Business:

- The Council approved placing the minutes to all meeting on the Parish site within two weeks of all meetings. The minutes will be emailed to members for email approval prior to posting on the site.
- The Council approved placing photos of Council members at the back of the sanctuary. The Council further approved that photos will be taken at the next meeting or members may submit a photo if they prefer.

VIII. Future Meetings:

November 13
December 11
January 13
February 10
March 10
April 14
May 12
June 9

IX. Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Lil Rossiter