

MINUTES
PASTORAL COUNCIL RETREAT
June 20, 2006

The Pastoral Council retreat began at 5:00 pm in the Community Center with dinner. Attendees were: Kari Albers, Beverly Bajerski, Pat and Bill Beckett, Bob Blythe, Debbie Calabro, Reed Camron, Geoffrey Carter, Fr. Michael Foley, Jerry Latimer, Dee Lopez, Christine McClelland, Laura Morris, Jay Schuck and Robin Stanford. Also attending were Goal Team Leaders, Dennis Scarry (Goal 2: Faith Experiences and Gary Brinkworth (Goal 1 : Deepen reverence for sacraments.). Charlie Bohan and Debra Herman were absent.

The meeting then moved to the parish center where we opened with a prayer experience and faith sharing based on the Parable of the Sower. Members planted seeds in small cups to symbolize the seeds of faith growing in the parish and the seeds planted through the Sharing the Vision process.

Pat reviewed the role of the Pastoral Council during this first year after the Sharing the Vision process. This review included: 1) First and foremost: Prayer for the process and the parish, 2) Modeling Small Christian Community and bringing this model to the other ministries that we are involved with, 3) Interaction with other Leadership Communities in parish (Coordinating Community for SCC's – liaison is Robin Stanford; Pastoral Staff – liaisons are Pat & Bill Beckett; Stewardship Core Community – liaisons are Pat & Bill Beckett). 4) Liaisons with each goal team-support, reporting back to Pastoral Council 5) Addressing goals that were NOT CHOSEN for implementation this year. Can they be delegated to other groups or implemented in other ways.

Following this review, Pastoral Council members were commissioned for the coming year of service.

After a break, Pat reviewed the Shared Wisdom process for decision-making and the council participated in an exercise that served as an example of the process. We were able to reach the beginning of Step 4 before running out of time.

The question is a real question that currently is being considered by one of the Goal Teams as well as the Welcoming Team.

Should we reorganize the vestibule to include additional display cases, tables and welcome information?

Step 1: Gathering the data - this part is normally conducted by gathering data on the question: liturgical norms? What is done in other parishes? Listening to parishioners

Step 2: Reflecting on the data - after 10 minutes of silent prayer and reflection, members wrote down their responses

Step 3: Sharing Wisdom – each member shared their response and responses were recored on the flip chart. Results are included in a separate attachment.

Step 4: Synthesizing the shared wisdom - Pat briefly summarized a few of the emerging trends. In a real process, someone would record these ideas and we would then discuss and formulate what appears to be consensus

Part 5: Reaching Consensus – this step can take more than one meeting. We did not do this step and may continue in the future.

After the Shared Wisdom exercise, the group split up into smaller groups based on the Goal Team which they had chosen. The groups shared for 20 minutes on the following questions: 1) Why did you choose this particular goal group? 2) What gift do you bring to the group?, 3) What hopes and dreams do you have for the team? 4) What practical ways can we as Pastoral Council members support the Team Leader?

The evening concluded with prayer. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, July 11, at 7:30 pm.