

Pastoral Council meeting 05/08/07

Meeting commenced at 7:40 pm

In Attendance: Debbie Calabro (Pastoral Coordinator), Pat Beckett (Pastoral Associate), Bill Beckett (Pastoral Associate), Fr. Michael Foley (Pastor), Bev Bajerski, Bob Blythe, Geoffrey Carter, Christine McClelland, Jay Schuck, Robin Stanford

Guests: Dennis Scarry, Gloria Smith, Pat Hall

Not Present: Debra Herman, Kari Albers, Jerry Latimer, Dee Lopez, Laura Morris

Opening Prayer: Debbie Calabro

Scripture and Faith Sharing: Debbie Calabro

Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and approved.

Goal Team Year End Reports from Goal Leaders:

Goal Team #2 – Establish additional on-going parish experiences of faith that encourage the development of a personal relationship with Jesus (renewal rather than educational experiences).

Dennis Scarry, the leader of Goal Team # 2, reported on each of the 4 objectives addressed by his team. Objective 1, to increase participation in Small Christian Community programs by 20% within 2 years has been delegated to the Small Christian Committee Core Group since they were working on the same goal. The Core Group has also improved the communications they are having with the individual groups. Objective 2, to build a “meditation walk” by 9/2007 has been completed with the installation of the Stations of the Cross in the island in the north parking lot. This Objective has been completed. Objective 3, to invite parishioner and future outside witness speakers to share their personal testimony with parishioners in a public forum on one evening at least once a year to begin in Fall 2006 has generated numerous speakers, such as Christopher West at Good Shepherd. The Goal Team has also started planning for a Parish Mission on the topic of Grace to be held August 5, 6, and 7. Fr. Craig Smith has agreed to conduct the Mission. The Goal Team has been struggling to get people to volunteer to help coordinate the Mission. Objective 4, to encounter Christ Incarnate on a Saturday (Fall 2006) through experiences of Mass and prayer service combined with outreach to elderly, disabled, migrants or others in need, led to the Advent Fiesta program headed by Good Shepherd parishioners to have a day of fun with the migrant community of Quincy. This objective was met.

Goal Team #3 – Energize and motivate existing parishioners who attend Mass, but are not involved in parish activities to become involved in at least one activity or ministry.

Gloria Smith, the leader of Goal Team 3, reported that the team decided to lump Objectives 2 and 3 together (Raise awareness and promote involvement in ministries among Mass goers through coordinated use of brochure racks, web site and bulletin inserts by Fall, 2006, and Increase awareness of activities and ministries through regular social events that will highlight a selected ministry and facilitate recruiting beginning Fall, 2006). The Goal Team discovered everything included in Objective 2 was being taken care of except for the brochure rack. Parishioner Ed Hubbard made and donated the beautiful wood rack we see outside after Mass every Sunday, so Objective 2 has been satisfied. Objective 3 is on-going. The Goal Team experimented with a coffee after Mass using the Just Faith ministry. The Goal Team is also helping ministries in designing ministry brochures, and is presently working with the Spanish ministry. With regard to Objective 1, to facilitate a personal invitation to participation in ministry by forming neighborhood-based small communities by Fall 2007, the Goal Team obtained some software to facilitate coordinating neighborhoods. They have also researched various books, tapes, etc. for use, and spoke with representatives from Bradfordville Baptist Church who has 18 Small Christian Communities about how they coordinate their ministry in this area. Both the Lenten groups and CRHP teams have been encouraged to form into Small Christian Communities. This summer there will be a refocusing on the neighborhood groups. The plan is to start small, with 2 to 3 groups and monitor their progress. It was discovered that this objective could not be completed in 1 year, and they expect it will take as much as 3 years to meet the objective. The Goal Team continues to meet through e-mail and has joined the Coordinating Community for Small Christian Communities.

Goal Team # 1 – Deepen the sense of reverence for all the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, through providing authentic Catholic teaching to at least 50% of active parishioners.

Christine McClelland, a member of Goal Team 1, reported on behalf of the Team Leader Deacon Gary Brinkworth who was unavailable. With regard to Objective 3, to have a leadership team review and implement liturgical practices and norms in order to inspire more reverent behavior in Mass beginning Pentecost, 2006, the Goal Team brainstormed various ideas, and provided the resulting list to the Worship Committee for their consideration and implementation. Objective 2, to schedule “Catholicism for Dummies” classes met with limited success. “Catholicism for Ordinary People” classes on the Eucharist were conducted by Deacon Marcus Hepburn, but attendance was light. Fr. Craig Smith also had a class on Reconciliation at the beginning of Lent. A class on Marriage was anticipated, but it proved difficult to identify a teacher. Objective 1, to have a teaching from the pulpit on one of the seven sacraments at least once a month at weekend Masses with particular emphasis on the Eucharist proved to be unattainable because of limited ability to influence homilists and the time constraints of the weekend Masses. The Goal Team had a hard time finding a time to meet that fit everyone’s schedule, and enthusiasm has waned as members are extremely busy. The Goal Team had too many members (17), and it is recommended that the Team be led by a lay person.

The Goal Team is going to attempt to restart the “Catholicism for Ordinary People” in the fall.

Evaluation of Goals via Shared Wisdom:

Pat Beckett led the Council through a Shared Wisdom discernment as to whether the goals were met, and whether the same goals should be kept or the Council should choose new goals. Because of time constraints, only Goal # 1 was discerned at this meeting. The remaining Goals will be discerned at the Pastoral Council Retreat June 9, 2007. The conclusion was that it was uncertain whether Goal # 1 should be retained or not, although there were more “nos” than “yeses.” The Council did discern that Objectives 1 and 3 should be dropped, and with regard to Objective 2, classes should be continued under the auspices of the Religious Education office.

Pastoral Council Membership

Charlie Bohan has resigned from the Pastoral Council in light of his decision to relocate to Oklahoma. Debbie Calabro will serve the remainder of Charlie's term as Council Coordinator. With regard to present members of the Council, Jay Schuck has completed his three year term and is leaving the council. The entire Council affirmed Jay for his dedicated service. Debbie Calabro, Debra Herman, Laura Morris, and Robin Stanford each have one year remaining on their terms. Kari Albers, Bev Bajerski, Bob Blythe, Geoffrey Carter, Jerry Latimer, Dee Lopez, and Christine McClelland each have two years remaining on their terms. Pat Hall has discerned to become a member of the Council. Regina D'Souza does not feel called to serve on the Council, and Laurie Abbott, Marcie Vernon, and Richard Saliba are still discerning whether they are called to serve on the Council.

Pastoral Council Retreat

The Pastoral Council Retreat will be held on Saturday, June 9th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Discernment of Pastoral Council Officers for Next Year

Pat and Bill Beckett and Father Michael Foley will not be at the August 2007 Pastoral Council meeting when officers would normally be selected. Debbie Calabro asked all Council members to check their calendars and let her know by the Retreat if they cannot be present for the July 2007 meeting. It is anticipated officers will be selected at the July meeting.

Father Michael's Comments

Fr. Michael added his affirmation to Jay Schuck for his dedicated service to the Pastoral Council, a service always done with a smile.

Next meeting will be the Retreat Saturday, June 9, 2007 at 9:00 am.
Geoffrey Carter will lead the faith sharing at the July 10, 2007 meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm after a closing prayer led by Debbie.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Blythe