

Pastoral Council Meeting 11/14/06

Meeting commenced at 7:36 p.m.

In Attendance: Pat Beckett & Bill Beckett (Pastoral Associates), Father Mike, Kari Albers, Bob Blythe, Debbie Calabro, Jerry Latimer, Dee Lopez, Robin Stanford

Not Present: Charlie Bohan (PC Coordinator), Joel Friederich (PC Assistant Coordinator), Debra Herman (PC Communications Coordinator), Bev Bajersky, Geoffrey Carter, Christine McClelland, Laura Morris, Jay Schuck, Maggie Short

Opening Prayer – Bob Blythe
Scripture and Faith Sharing – Bob Blythe

Pat explained that because Charlie and Joel had work conflicts, she was asked to chair tonight's meeting. Debra is also out of town and the minutes would be done by Debbie.

Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and approved after one change to the second sentence of the second paragraph under In Process Business: Instead of "The Pastoral Council shares responsibility..." it will read "Good Shepherd's Pastoral Council shares responsibility..."

The Matthew 25 Leadership Community (M25LC) is a reality after one year. Dee Lopez, coordinator of the M25LC, passed out a copy of the Charter of the Matthew 25 Leadership Community. The purpose of the M25LC is to support and assist Good Shepherd's existing Mercy and Justice Ministries as well as work with all the parish ministries and Leadership Communities to promote the authentic living out of our Eucharistic faith by seeing Jesus in our brothers and sisters in the world around us. The M25LC will strive to promote mercy and justice and ignite the parish community into action by providing leadership, support and solidarity. The CARA survey, done one year ago, showed that many of our parishioners are not aware of the Catholic teaching on social justice; therefore, education programs about social justice are needed in our parish. The M25LC has 10 active members and 7 closely associated members at this time and meets every 2nd Thursday of the month. Attached is a copy of the charter handout which explains in full detail the mission, purpose, function and membership of the M25LC. This same information may also be viewed on Good Shepherd's webpage, *click on* Ministries.

Pat thanked Kari Albers for her Time and Talent Witness that she shared at all of the masses two weekends ago as part of the Stewardship Core Community's annual plan to help our parishioners grow in their understanding of stewardship. Fr. Mike also affirmed Kari for being open and vulnerable about her faith journey; and, it is great how the Lord uses that to help each of us grow and touch others. Copies of the newly revised Stewardship of Time and Talent Ministries booklet for our parish were passed out. The booklets have been available to all parishioners, in the church vestibule, for the past two weekends. They are handed out to every new registering family throughout the year.

The Pastoral Charter revisions have been completed by the Charter Review Committee. Copies of the revised charter were passed out to all members present. Members not present will need to pick a copy up from the Council file folder. All members are asked to read, think and pray about the charter over the next few weeks. At our December meeting, we will use the Sharing Wisdom process to discern and affirm the new charter. Do we have a consensus? A quorum is necessary to affirm the charter, so it could be delayed another month if not enough Council members are present at the meeting.

There were several reasons to do a charter review and revision: 1) We are using the Sharing the Vision process, initiated by the diocese this past year, as part of our pastoral planning and wanted to incorporate that into the charter since this process will continue for several more years; 2) Officer duties and meeting agendas needed to be updated to more accurately describe the way we are actually operating; 3) Parish Organization needed to be looked at since the Commission structure of parish ministries was no longer operating as described; and, 4) Redundant information that appeared in both the charter and an appendix needed to be removed or consolidated. Spelling and punctuation corrections, consistent capitalization and some sentence wording changes to help clarify the meaning were also necessary.

The major revisions to the charter can be found in the following sections:

- Charter-p.3 **Duties of Officers** and
- Charter-p.5 **Agenda of Meetings**—both of these sections now better describe how the Council Officers have been doing things this past year or two because of the increased use of internet and computers in our planning and communicating. **Appendix 1** is newly created and describes the Selection Process for Pastoral Council Officers. This process is the one we have been using but it was not detailed and only Pat knew it well enough to lead the discernment. Now, any designated person can lead the discernment process for the selection of officers.
- Charter-p.4 **Article III-Parish Organization** – the Commission structure was not operating as described anymore and has been eliminated. The parish ministries have been reorganized into new categories that are meant to be more easily understood by parishioners and are reflective of our current operating structure. **Appendix 2** details the current Parish Organization and Ministries.
- Charter-p.7 **Article VI-The Pastoral Council Year and Pastoral Planning** was redone to reflect the Sharing the Vision process we are using in our pastoral planning now. The previous Appendix 2, created in March 2001, which referenced this Article, has been consolidated into this Article since so much of the information was redundant.
- **Appendix 4-p.3 Background History...**has had a new section of information added that explains the reasons for this latest charter review and revisions. This provides for a continuity of information regarding the Pastoral Charter and the Pastoral Council, despite the comings and goings of its members and officers as their terms expire.
- **Appendix 5 Resources** - this lists the resources that have been used in creating this charter or in implementing the various processes described.

Goal Team reports will be done quarterly or occasionally as needed. Any Goal Team issues that need the Pastoral Council's guidance or assistance can be brought up at any meeting...just contact Charlie to get it on the agenda. Otherwise, we will assume the Goal Teams are working and progressing along on their objectives to implement the goal.

Copies of the Proposed Goals from the 2nd Sharing the Vision Parish Assembly Day in March 2006 were passed out and reviewed by Pat. The Council will look at the Proposed Goals that are not already being implemented by the Goal Teams and choose a top goal. The Sharing Wisdom process was used to facilitate prayerful consideration and discussion by each Council member to gather input of what each member thought was the next most important or needed goal.

The following goals were discerned for consideration:

- Goal 5: Strengthen outreach to new parishioners to involve them in one or more parish activities or ministries.
- Goal 6: Establish a ministry to provide services to widowers and elderly including transportation, home repairs and bereavement follow-up/grief support.
- Goal 15: Establish a parish outreach ministry to the homebound allocating appropriate resources of time, talent and treasure.
- Goal 10: Increase Sunday Mass participation of registered parishioners from 40% to 75% in the next three years.

The majority of Council members present felt that Goals 6 & 15 were of the greatest need at this time and could or should be combined together as one goal and considered for implementation in the near future. Calls to the church office requesting assistance with transportation or some kind of help occur at least once a week. It was suggested that we could "fund" this through Goal 5—involving new parishioners.

Pat is going to turn Goal 5 over to the Welcoming Team Ministry, of which she is a member. Through the New Comer process that is already in place, the team should be able to accomplish this goal with a little bit of strategizing and focus.

Goal 10--Educating our parishioners about the Mass and the Sacraments, to ignite those fires again within them, is one possible way to increase Mass participation. Sending information home through the RE program is another venue. But how to reach those that are not coming here at all is the challenge. Goal Team #3 is working on the development of neighborhood small Christian community groups. This could be another way to personally reach out to registered parishioners that are not currently coming to Mass. It was felt that more information needs to be gathered in order to implement Goal 10. Other parishes have increased their Mass participation by up to 75% through increased and continued stewardship concepts and education, according to Bill. We need to talk with these parishes to find out more.

Father Mike's comments: Because Fr. Mike had to leave early to attend another meeting, there were no closing remarks from him this evening.

Charlie notified all Council members this past week that Reed Camron has had to resign from the Council because of unforeseen changes and demands in his time and commitments due to his Naval Reserve status. He hopes to serve the parish in the future.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 12th at 7:30 p.m.

Faith Sharing will be led by Jerry Latimer.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. after a closing prayer led by Bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Calabro