

## **Review of Pastoral Council Year June 2006 – May 2007**

Pastoral Council has continued to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month during this past year. We conduct ourselves as a small Christian community, dedicated to prayer, learning, support, faith-sharing and mission; and, we use a process of *Sharing Wisdom* for decision making. As a community, we again served one of the Friday Lenten Soup Suppers and led the Stations of the Cross that evening. We also participated in the annual fall Ministry Fair.

It was discovered, at the Sharing the Vision Assembly Days in February/March 2006, that many parishioners do not seem to know what we do. In an effort to change this, Pastoral Council: 1) has a ministry description on the church web page and posts all of its meeting minutes on the web page; 2) keeps brochures on the ministry cart that describe the Council, list its members, contact numbers and the parish goals and objectives for the year; 3) informs parishioners about Pastoral Council at the fall Ministry Fair and invites them to discern joining the Council in the spring; and 4) gives quarterly updates on our parish goals and objectives via the bulletin and church web page.

The Pastoral Council Charter was reviewed and revised this year, with unanimous approval given on 12/14/06. It had been five years since the last review. The Sharing the Vision process, initiated by the diocese, resulted in new terminology and processes for Pastoral Planning which are going to be effective for several more years. The Charter needed to incorporate this, provide a better description of the way the Council was actually operating and give a simpler, more accurate description of our parish ministry organization since we were no longer using the commission structure.

The Council adopted the goals and objectives set by the parishioners attending the Sharing the Vision (STV) Assembly Days. This is different from every other year where we, the Council, identify two or three top needs of the parish as part of our pastoral planning at our annual June retreat. Implementation Teams for each goal were formed from the parishioners that signed up to work on one of the three goals at the last STV Assembly Day. A member from each team was asked to be the team leader and the teams began meeting in May, June or July 2006. All Council members joined a Goal Team to assist in the implementation of the goal objectives.

### **2006 - 2008 Goals and Objectives**

***GOAL 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.***

#### **Objectives**

1. Beginning Fall 2006, have a teaching from the pulpit on one of the seven sacraments – at least once a month (weekend Masses) with particular emphasis on the Eucharist.
2. By Fall 2006, schedule “Catholicism for Dummies” -- 3 topics, 3 classes per topic, 3 different teachers
3. Have a leadership team review and implement liturgical practices and norms in order to inspire more reverent behavior in Mass beginning Pentecost, 2006.

**GOAL 2: Establish additional on-going parish experiences of faith that encourage the development of a personal relationship with Jesus (renewal rather than educational experiences).**

**Objectives**

1. Increase participation in Small Christian Community programs by 20% within 2 years.
2. Build a "meditation walk" by 9/2007.
3. 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 by Fall, 2006.
4. 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.

**GOAL 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.**

**Objectives**

1. Facilitate a personal invitation to participation in ministry by forming small communities by Fall, 2007.
2. Raise awareness and promote involvement in ministries among Mass goers through coordinated use of brochure racks, web site and bulletin inserts by Fall, 2006
3. Increase awareness of activities and ministries through regular social events that will highlight a selected ministry and facilitate recruiting beginning Fall, 2006.

A summary of the End of the Year report for each goal, as presented by the Goal Team Leaders at the May Pastoral Council meeting, is as follows:

**Goal 1 - Deacon Gary Brinkworth, Team Leader:** The Goal Team found that Objective 1 proved to be unattainable because of limited ability to influence homilists and the time constraints of the weekend Masses. Objective 3 was turned over to the Worship Ministry. Objective 2 was implemented through "Catholicism for Ordinary People" classes. Deacon Marcus conducted a class on the Eucharist, offered at three different times, but attendance was light. Fr. Craig led a class on Reconciliation at two different times during Lent. Again, attendance was light. A class on Marriage did not materialize. *The "Catholicism for Ordinary People" classes should be continued.*

**Goal 2 - Dennis Scarry, Team Leader:** Objective 1 was delegated to the Coordinating Community for Small Christian Communities since they were working on the same goal. Objective 2 has been completed with the installation of the Stations of the Cross in the island of the north parking lot. Objective 3 is being implemented via a Parish Mission to be held this August 5, 6 & 7<sup>th</sup> on the topic of Grace. *A committee would need to be formed in order for this objective to continue on a regular basis.* Objective 4 was fulfilled with the Advent Fiesta program headed by Good Shepherd parishioners to have a day of fun with the migrant community of Quincy this past December. *Again, in order for this objective to occur on a regular basis it would need to be overseen by an existing ministry or a specific committee.*

**Goal 3 - Gloria Smith, Team Leader:** Objective 1 was delegated to the Coordinating Community for Small Christian Communities (CCSCC) for implementation. Goal Team members wanting to work on this particular objective have joined the CCSCC and together they are forming neighborhood-based small

communities, with the hopes of trying 2 or 3 groups by Fall 2007. Objectives 2 & 3 were lumped together and have been met and continue to be on-going. Parishioner Ed Hubbard built and donated a beautiful wood rack/cart to hold all of the Ministry brochures. Because it is on wheels, we can move it from one building to the other to promote ministries at all parish gatherings and Masses. The bulletin, web page and pulpit announcements are being used to highlight all ministries.

These Parish Goals and Objectives will be discerned by the Council at our annual June retreat as part of our Evaluation and Pastoral Planning for this next year. The majority of the objectives for each goal have been satisfied this year. One challenge that we were not able to sustain was looking at the other goals from the STV Assembly Days and addressing them.