

MINUTES
PASTORAL COUNCIL ANNUAL PLANNING RETREAT
June 9, 2007

Pastoral Council members gathered in the chapel to begin our planning retreat with Mass. The following members were in attendance: Kari Albers, Bev Bajerski, Pat and Bill Beckett, Bob Blythe, Debbie Calabro, Geoffrey Carter, Fr. Michael Foley, Pat Hall, Debra Herman, Dee Lopez, Christine McClelland, Laura Morris, Jay Schuck, Robin Stanford, and Marcie Vernon. Jerry Latimer was unable to attend.

After a welcome and introductions, the day began with prayer and faith sharing on the Matt 5:13-16 (the verses focus on being light and salt to the world).

Pat gave an overview of the day: goals included getting to know each other and build a faith community, clarifying the role of Pastoral Council, reviewing the past Pastoral Council year and developing goals and objectives for the coming year through the process of prayer and sharing wisdom.

Pat discussed the Pastoral Council role, the process of Pastoral Planning and interaction with other Leadership Communities in the parish. She reviewed the elements of Small Christian Community and the guidelines for faith sharing as well as the decision-making process of Sharing Wisdom that the Council uses.

Fr. Michael affirmed the importance of Pastoral Council and emphasized that even though we may not see immediate results, the planning process results in big changes over the long term. He thanked members for their commitment and said a blessing over all of us to commission the entire Council for the coming year.

Debbie Calabro (interim Pastoral Council coordinator) passed out a handout reviewing the Pastoral Council year and went over the highlights. This document will be posted on the web page on the Pastoral Council page along with the retreat minutes.

At our May meeting, we began our evaluation of the goals and objectives set last March at the Sharing the Vision Assembly Days. We used the Sharing Wisdom process to look at two questions:

Should this goal be continued as a parish goal overseen by Pastoral Council for 2007-2008?
Should the objectives chosen for this goal be continued for 2007-2008?

Although the goals were chosen with a 3-5 year time frame, re-evaluation was meant to take place each year to assure that the goal is still appropriate to be overseen by Pastoral Council or whether it should be or already is being implemented through other means. Objectives were chosen with a one year time frame. If completed, they would be dropped. However, if an objective is not completely met, it can be continued either under the same goal or delegated to an implementation team for continuation.

In May, we were only able to use the Sharing Wisdom process to evaluate Goal 1. At the end of the meeting we had not come to consensus. Therefore, the Sharing Wisdom process was again used to address the above questions. After two rounds of discussion, a consensus was reached to continue Goal 1, but to rewrite it to more clearly address the two areas of reverence and authentic Catholic teaching. Dee Lopez, Geoffrey Carter and Pat Hall volunteered to work on rewriting the goal for presentation to the Pastoral Council at the July meeting. Objectives 1 and 3 were dropped by consensus. Objective 2: "By Fall 2006, schedule "Catholicism for Dummies" classes" was met through the presentation of classes on the Eucharist by Marcus Hepburn and on Reconciliation by Fr. Craig Smith. However, the last set of classes on Marriage was not presented and the Council agreed that the classes were needed and should be continued. Discussion centered on transferring ownership of the objective to the Faith Formation office under Bette Scaringe. However, the Council did not want to drop the objective until they were assured that this could be accomplished. It was proposed that the Goal Team 1 members may want to continue as a small planning group for the classes or that an Adult Faith Formation group might address additional needs for "authentic Catholic teaching." However, since none of these ideas are in place, the objective will need to be continued and discussed with Bette.

Following lunch, the Council continued the Sharing Wisdom process with Goal 2. After much discussion and several rounds testing consensus, the decision was made to continue Goal 2. Although there are many on-going parish experiences, the consensus was that the goal team had struggled to implement the objectives and that there was not a strong enough foundation to assure that the intent of the parishioners attending the Parish Assembly Days was met. Objective 1 has been delegated to the Core Community for Small Christian Communities. Objective 2 was already in progress. Objective 3 will be accomplished through the Parish Mission in August. Objective 4 was accomplished through the Advent Fiesta. The goal will be retained for the coming year. Objectives will be rewritten. However, there was insufficient time to discuss the objectives further.

After several rounds of the Sharing Wisdom process, Goal 3 was dropped. This goal is the specific responsibility of the Stewardship Core Community. Each year the Stewardship Core Community participates in a planning retreat just as Pastoral Council does. They have continued to work to raise ministry awareness through a variety of means and are very open to new ideas and suggestions. The Stewardship Core Community took all of the objectives which related to ministry awareness from Goal 2 and has already begun to implement some of them. Stewardship minutes and annual plan are published on the web for anyone who would like to learn more about their plans. Encouraging and motivating volunteers is an ongoing challenge for all the ministries of the parish.

Since the Goal was dropped, we will not be choosing new objectives. In reviewing the old objectives, none needed to be continued. Objective 1 has been delegated to the Coordinating Community for Small Christian Communities. Objective 2 is ongoing and is being coordinated through Stewardship. Objective 3 was met through four "Coffee after Mass" Ministry Sundays and materials are available to ministries who wish to use this method of inviting others to join their ministry.

Since one of the goals was dropped and Goal 1 may be continued for only a short period of time, the Council will need to choose additional goals and objectives. Because of the length of time required to prayerfully discern new goals, the Council may want to consider scheduling a longer period of time

than a regular Council meeting for this process. An additional planning meeting has often been held in the past in August or September when new goals needed further work.

The next Council meeting will be held July 10. The Council will discern new officers at this meeting and continue the goal setting process.