

## **Review of Pastoral Council Year June 2007 – May 2008**

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, led the Stations of the Cross that same evening, participated in the annual fall Ministry Fair and hosted one of our parish *Sharing the Vision-Growing in Faith Capital Campaign* receptions held this past spring.

It still seems that many parishioners continue to not be aware of Pastoral Council and what we do, in spite of the specific actions taken over the past two years, which have been: 1) having a ministry description on the church web page and posting all of our meeting minutes on the web page; 2) keeping brochures on the ministry cart that describe the Council, list its members, contact numbers and the parish goals and objectives for the year; 3) informing parishioners about Pastoral Council at the fall Ministry Fair and inviting them to discern joining the Council in the spring; 4) giving quarterly or semi-annual updates of our parish goals and objectives via bulletin inserts and the church web page; and 5) making pulpit and bulletin announcements in February and March to recruit new Council members.

Therefore, we need to continue to work in this area of promoting and communicating ourselves to the parish community. Two recent suggestions concerning this matter should be considered by the Council for the coming year: 1) Council members wear nametags to parish events, that identify them as Pastoral Council members, in an effort to foster conversation about the Council and raise awareness about what we do for the parish community; and, 2) create an insert page for the bulletin each year with a picture of all Council members, names, contact numbers, and a description of Pastoral Council. This could be done once the executive committee has been discerned, or it could be done as the backside of the bulletin insert page listing the annual parish goals and objectives, once they have been discerned.

At last June's Pastoral Council Annual Planning Retreat it was discerned, using the *Sharing Wisdom* process, that Goal 1 would continue, but it would need to be written more clearly to address the two areas of reverence and authentic Catholic teaching. It had been the number one chosen goal by the parishioners at the *Sharing the Vision Assembly Day* in March 2006. Only the Catholicism for Ordinary Catholics objective would carry over. It was also discerned, at the next few Council meetings, that this goal could be passed to the Adult Faith Formation Advisory Team, once that group was formed and secure, but Pastoral Council would implement it until the time that it could be transferred.

It was discerned that Goal 2 would continue. 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 the intent had been

met, by the parishioners that chose this as the second goal of most importance at the Sharing the Vision Assembly Days. New objectives would be written.

And lastly, it was discerned that Goal 3 would be dropped. Increasing parishioner awareness and participation in church activities and ministries is a specific responsibility of the Stewardship Core Community and they are working on this throughout the year. A new Goal 3 and objectives would be discerned for the coming year.

Using the Sharing Wisdom process, it took all of our regular monthly meeting times from August until December 2007, to discern the following goals and objectives for the coming year. The first Goal Implementation Team meetings were held in January 2008, in place of our regular January Council meeting.

### **2007 - 2008 Parish Goals and Objectives**

**GOAL 1:** Provide authentic Catholic teaching to at least 50% of active parishioners in order to promote the sense of reverence for all the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

Objectives

1. By Fall 2007, create an Adult Faith Formation Advisory Team to begin development of a parish pastoral plan for adult catechesis.
2. By Spring 2008, schedule "Catholicism for Ordinary Catholics" sessions on Marriage, Families, and Intimacy.

**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. By January 2008, form a standing Parish Mission Planning Team to plan regular parish missions to occur on at least an annual basis.
2. By April 2008, host monthly renewal nights that will incorporate music, prayer and witnesses to share and teach about developing a personal faith relationship.
3. By January 2008, identify facilities and opportunities for parishioners to attend retreats at facilities away from the Parish, and to publicize these opportunities to the Parish community.

**GOAL 3:** Establish an outreach ministry to provide services to the homebound, elderly and other parishioners in need, which would include visitation, transportation, home repair, and additional support.

## Objectives

1. By February 2008, identify parishioners who are homebound and elderly.
2. By March 2008, identify services and opportunities that are provided by non-profit community organizations for the homebound and elderly.
3. By June 2008, implement a ministry that reaches out to the elderly and homebound through visitation and telephone calls.

To date, the following has been implemented for each of the goals:

### Goal 1 -- Christine McClelland, Team Leader

*Objective 1* has been met. An Adult Faith Formation Advisory Team (AFFAT) began formation in September 2007, under the direction of Bette Scaringe, DRE and initial teachings on catechesis were led by Fr. Craig Smith. In April 2008, the AFFAT began the process of identifying its vision and discerning goals and objectives, with Dee Lopez as its facilitator.

*Objective 2* still has to be scheduled. Kiera Camron, a parishioner and one of our woman's apologetic class teachers, has agreed to teach the sessions using Pope John Paul II's and Christopher West's *Theology of the Body* resources, but dates have not been confirmed yet.

### Goal 2 -- Marcie Vernon, Team Leader

*Objective 1*, forming a standing Parish Mission Planning Team is still a work in progress and will be given more attention in formation after the summer mission featuring Father Robert Young, O.F.M., Praying with Passion: A Prayer Driven Life, July 20-22, 2008.

*Objective 2* has been implemented through Parish Movie Nights and Family Rosary. *The Passion* movie was shown in the Community Center during Lent. The plan is to show a movie quarterly. The next movie will be planned for after the summer mission. The Family Rosary began in May and is being held on the first Saturday of the month following the 9:00 AM Mass.

*Objective 3* is half done. Facilities and opportunities for parishioners to attend retreats away from the parish have been identified, but have not yet been publicized to the parish via the church web page, bulletin, and a brochure on the ministry cart.

### Goal 3 -- Pat Beckett, Team Leader

This goal team is close to meeting all of the objectives. *Objective 2* was satisfied by having Jim Croteau from Elder Care Services and Brenda Popp from Good News Outreach provide information on their organizations and services. They both affirmed this goal/ministry and Jim offered to provide training and information to all volunteers for this ministry.

*Objective 1*, identifying parishioners who are homebound and elderly has begun with sign-ups after Mass on April 19-20 and requests for referrals from our Bereavement Ministry, Communion for the Homebound Ministry, the Young at Heart group, and Deacon Ed Melvin's hospital visitation ministry. A parish listing of all parishioners over the age of 70 is also being utilized to help identify those that might want these services. This ministry is also advertised on the church web page with contact numbers for those that would like to either request its services or be a volunteer.

*Objective 3*: Brenda Popp has agreed to be the Ministry Coordinator. All volunteers received training and information on working with the elderly in May from Jim Croteau and completed the diocesan volunteer requirements. The further identifying of each referred person's needs is underway and then they will be matched with a volunteer for home visits or phone calls.

These Parish Goals and Objectives will be reviewed by the Council at our annual June retreat, as part of our Evaluation and Pastoral Planning for this next year; and, each will be discerned for continued implementation or not via the Sharing Wisdom process. Most of the goals from the Sharing the Vision Assembly Days in March 2006 have been implemented or the few remaining are not well written goals with substance. Hence, each member of Pastoral Council needs to begin his/her own data gathering and discernment of the needs, strengths and weaknesses of Good Shepherd Parish and its community for future Pastoral Council goal setting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debbie Calabro  
Pastoral Council Coordinator