

Pax Christi Pastoral Council Minutes

Tuesday, January 20th, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

Fr. Keefe, Fr. Caesar

First Officer: Miguel Paz,

Members present: Pat Fallon, Gene Plutowski, Randy Horlocker, Greg Sherman, Mary Ellen Tanaka

Parish Trustees: Teresa Silker, Pete Streit

Guests: Angela Winkels, Hillary Baron, Chris Orlowski, Angie Slattery, John Tanaka

OPENING PRAYER

The Gospel for Sunday January 25th was read by Gene Plutowski and discussed by members.

NEW BUSINESS

1. YOUTH IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY (YTM) PROJECT

Hillary Baron and Angela Winkels attended the Youth Summer Institute at St. John's University last summer. As part of their Leadership education, they were given an assignment to do a social justice project within their parish. They presented their proposed project to the Pastoral Council. Their project is to hold a "youth/senior citizen get together". This will give both the youth and seniors of our parish a chance to spend time together playing games, enjoying music and having refreshments. The event is planned for sometime in February. The Pastoral Council approved their project and gave them their support.

2. DEACON QUESTIONNAIRE

Chris Orlowski will be completing his diaconate in August. Chris met with the Pastoral Council to ask them questions regarding how best a Deacon can serve Pax Christi and our community. A group of 4 basic questions presented by Chris, opened the discussion. Where do we see a Deacon's services most needed internally in our church? Where in our surrounding community do we see a need for a Deacon? What would be the biggest change for us with the addition of a Deacon? Where do we see the Deacon as a big help, as a hindrance, in our parish? The Pastoral Council spent time discussing these questions. No formal proposals or guidelines were established. This was more of a learning session for everyone.

OLD BUSINESS

1. PAX CHRISTI PASTORAL COUNCIL: FULFILLING THE PARISH VISION, STRATEGIC PLANNING 2009.

- a. The Pastoral Council continues to move forward on refining and generating a strategic plan for the next 5 to 7 years. Currently the Council is working on a set of “benchmarks” that can be used as a starting point for our 3 initiatives.
- b. The Council discussed the upcoming “Breakfast for our Youth” event. This event is to help open dialog with our youth (parishioners in the 18 to 35 age group). This information will be used to help us with Initiative #3 “Make Youth and Young Adult Ministries one of the cornerstones of our parish.” The discussion focused on the logistics of how the breakfast will be carried out and what information we hope to gather. A “breakfast agenda” was created.
- c. During the month of December, several council members presented the strategic initiatives from the strategic plan to all of the parish ministries. These council members summarized the results of those meetings. During these meetings, the ministry leaders were asked to help complete a “Ministry Matrix”. This matrix will be used as a “benchmark” for initiative #1, “Ensure we are providing a variety of programs to meet the needs of our diverse parishioners”. This matrix provides us with an overall view of each of our parish ministries and what parishioner demographic they encompass and what specific needs they provide to their members.
- d. The Pastoral Council then discussed what the next steps will be for moving forward. It was decided that we now need to start rolling out these initiatives to the rest of the Parish. Fr. Keefe and Fr. Caesar believe that the plan should be presented to the parish during one of the homilies. Fr. Keefe and Fr. Caesar will provide us with a date on which Sunday this will occur. Early guess is that it will happen sometime in March.

OTHER BUSINESS

Pete Streit suggested that we (as a Council) need better communication between ourselves.

Mary Ellen Tanaka informed the Pastoral Council that effective immediately she is resigning from the Council.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 17th, 2009.

THANK YOU NOTES

1. Hillary Baron and Angela Winkels for their “Youth / Senior Citizen” project.
2. Mike and Sally Burns for coordinating the Postville Iowa charity project.

3. Gail Keidl for the Funeral Lunch Program.

CLOSING PRAYER

The closing thoughts were presented by Pete Streit.

Respectfully submitted,

Miguel Paz
First Officer.