

## Pastoral Council Meeting

Jan. 10, 2010

### Minutes

Attendees: Msgr. Emery, Father Rich Pfannenstiel, Sister Mary Selina, Anne Majewski, Barbara McLaughlin, Melanie Zappo, Lou Zappo, Anita Jonco, Jerry McElroy, Maria Wilms, Betty Garrett, Mary Chris Brauchli, and Rosemarie Iantosca.

- 1.) Opening Prayer
- 2.) Minutes from Nov. 8, 2010 meeting were approved.
- 3.) Cluster Reports:

#### a.) WORD

**RCIA**-currently has 5 candidates. The candidates have been very positive and enthusiastic.

**Pre Cana**- will take place the first weekend in March. There are 22 couples registered to attend. There is a need for another couple to help.

**Men's Prayer Group**- Jerry has not communicated with Paul Ribarto or Joan Csedrik about this, but will try to contact them.

**Faith Sharing Group**-this group meets on Thursdays to discuss scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Attendance is low with only 3 in the group. Priscilla Sewell facilitates the meetings. They would like more people to join this group. A suggestion was made about this group possibly joining with Women's Prayer Group, which meets on Saturday. Sister Selina felt that these were two distinct groups with different focuses and should remain separate.

Msgr. Emery suggested that this and other groups advertise in bulletin, as many people may not be aware of them. The Rosary Group, which meets Monday nights, and Men's Prayer Group, which meets Wed. at 6AM, should also be publicized and promoted.

**Advert Challenge**-this month-long push, where parishioners were encouraged to invite others for holiday services and to explore their Catholic faith, received great support from OLS staff and other ministries. Attendance at noon Masses and other services did seem to increase.

#### b.) WORSHIP

**Music**- music over the Christmas season was wonderful.

**Ushers**- the ushers have plenty of help on Sundays, and will ask for volunteers as needed.

**Decorating**-the church was beautiful over the Christmas season, with 100 poinsettias on the altar. Next year the decorating committee would like to put streamers on polls. Dottie will talk to Russ about having polls made.

**Eucharistic Ministry**-there is a need for Eucharistic Ministers to take the Eucharist to the homebound. Melanie volunteered to do this, but others will still be needed.

#### c.) COMMUNITY

There will be only two major social events this year, one in the fall and one in the spring. The Parish Picnic will be in the fall and the St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be in the spring. Tricia Kennedy will chair the St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

**Advert by Candlelight**-very well attend, with 230 women participating. It was held at St. Joe's.

**Epiphany Pageant**- although there were less children in the pageant, attendance at the event was very good. The pizza social after the pageant, run by Margaret Grey, was also well attended. There were approx. 50-60 people, and 16 pizzas were used. They plan to have this event again next year, as people seemed to enjoy it.

**Mardi-Gras Breakfast**-will not be having this event, as it was not well-attended and takes place shortly after St. Patrick's Day Event.

**Easter Egg Hunt**- Margaret Grey and Jen Knolls will run this event in the spring.

**Golf Outing**-will take place May 11, 2011. There will be no dinner this year.

**Battle of the Bands**-will take place in OLS gym on Jan. 22, 2011. Although our parish does not run this event, OLS Food Pantry will be the recipient of 10% of proceeds.

#### **d.) SERVICE**

**Respect Life Committee**--March for Life bus trip to Wash DC will be Jan. 24, 2011. Ray Van Dyke has organized this along with St. Rose in Millburn. Members of the Youth Group will be attending this year.

**Secret Santa**-provided for 17 families this year. Although monetary donations were down a bit this year, there was plenty of help including many new volunteers and several youth from our parish. The Elks donated \$500. The families that requested gifts did seem truly in need, so there were no issues of having to screen families.

**Peace & Justice Committee**-planning "Souper Bowl" collection for food pantry on Jan 29/30.

Conflict resolution is planned for 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the parish school in the spring.

**Regifting Collection**-was the 2 weekends following Christmas. Many nice gifts were collected and were brought to St. Mary's in Newark. This was a joint effort with St. Joe's.

**IHN**-next host week will be March 6 through 13. OLS parishioners from this ministry recently helped fill in at a hosting in a church in Bloomfield.

**Food Pantry**- there has been plenty of food donations and volunteers. Residents from Jespy House have been helping on Mondays and Tuesdays. Their program coordinator accompanies them. Mary Beth has been taking photos of the food pantry recipients and will have ID cards made, in an effort to cut down on families getting multiple bags.

At their cluster meeting, the Service Cluster discussed the lack of interest in parish social events, and felt that although attendance is low at these events, there seems to be much interest and energy in service ministries throughout the parish. It seems community is being built through volunteering, committee participation, bus trips, etc.

Msgr. emphasized the need for leaders in parish to encourage others to participate in parish events. We should put more energy into events, and promote and invite new members to participate.

#### **4.) Caritas Report**

**Christmas Craft Fair and Breakfast with Santa**- good attendance from school families & parishioners. Worked well in lower church.

**Internet Safely**- school is hosting this seminar Jan. 13, 2011 at 7:30PM. It is intended to keep parents informed on this important issue.

**Catholic Schools Week**-preparations are under way. The week will begin with Mass and Open House on Jan. 30, 2011.

**March Meeting**-the next Pastoral Council meeting was rescheduled to Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 7:30PM. Although IHN will be hosting families at that time, Mary Chris will see to it that the quiet area is set up in another room.

#### 5.) Other Issues

a.) Jerry let everyone know that Fordham University will be hosting a conference on young adults and the Church at the Lincoln Center Campus on Jan. 28, 2011 from 9:50AM to 5PM.

b.) **Stewardship Committee**- if a Pastoral Council member's term is ending, they can still be on Stewardship Committee. Sister Selina reminded us that if a Pastoral Council member from each Cluster cannot be on Stewardship Committee, they should recommend another parishioner. The purpose of the Stewardship Committee is to motivate parishioners to keep the stewardship way of life all year long. The committee discusses topics such as effectiveness of Ministries Fair, recommitment flyer, guest speakers at Masses, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 10, 2011.