

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 22, 2013**

**ATTENDEES:** Father Jeff Goeckner, Becky Bradley, Deacon Dan Corbett, Bill Doerr, Mimi Hunter, Georgann Lautner, Adam Milburn, Sue Papajcik (part-time), Bob Ribbing, and Andrew Serfas.

Mimi read the gospel for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. The study question was, “Imagine yourself in the synagogue hearing Jesus’ proclamation in the Gospel. What are your thoughts?” This writer said, “Who does this guy think he is?” Father Jeff said that this is Luke kicking off Jesus’ ministry. The synagogue would have been full of elders, and Jesus’ reading from book of the law would have been like a bar mitzvah--an epiphany. Deacon Dan reminded us that the synagogue—unlike the temple—would have been a small room, and the elders would have recognized Jesus as “Joe’s kid”. Bob mentioned that these elders would have heard this passage many times, year after year. But this time it was different—they heard it differently. Becky stated that maybe as parents (elders) we should listen more closely to our children. Elders sometimes find it hard to hear the wisdom of young voices.

**PASTOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pre-Cana will be held this Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 9AM. There will be 22 or 23 couples participating.

Catholic Schools Week is January 26<sup>th</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chicken and Beer Dance is February 8<sup>th</sup>. Chicken and beer are included in the price of the ticket—as well as birthday cake in honor of our pastor. Attendees are asked—but not required--to bring a covered dish.

Lent begins February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**REPORTS**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

Deacon Dan reported that the SJC is waiting for either another set of questions or a decision from the Pastoral Council to endorse the twinning program and move forward. There was a discussion in regards to the issues of getting people involved in twinning. Most people are willing to contribute monetarily, but we need people to commit the time. We talked about the number of people needed and catechizing those prospective participants. We need to educate the parish. How do we do that? There was a question about the representative from the Pastoral Council who would sit on the SJ committee. There was a discussion of whether to twin domestically or internationally. The general consensus in that regard was to twin domestically. It is more practical and more accessible as it allows more parishioners to be involved. Deacon Dan will take our endorsement to proceed back to the SJC, and recommend they set a goal to begin catechesis.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Obligation of Sunday Mass participation. There have been cards in the pews and in fellowship areas since mid-Advent for those who attend mass only occasionally and for parishioners to take to Catholics they know who are drifting Catholics. It asks them to go on-line to complete a survey with the diocese about why they are not practicing Catholics. Since there are considerably fewer of these cards *in* the church we are hoping people are taking and giving them to those of the project's target group. The Deanery will be discussing this issue, too, at their next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Who are we? As a Pastoral Council, who are we? There has been some confusion—I don't know if that's the right word or not—as to what functions, duties, and responsibilities are expected of us as a Pastoral Council. Some of us were told we act as a sounding board for the pastor. Some were told we were just expected to attend a meeting once a month. Our responsibilities heightened with the diocese's implementation of a new parish legal structure. We as a council have not responded sufficiently to those changes. Yes, we are a sounding board and a prayer group, but we are also responsible for improving the spiritual lives of our parish. In this regard we are just spinning. We are not moving forward.

We talked about some of the functions that were once sponsored by the Council. The main one we talked about was fellowship—wine and cheese or donuts or pizza—after Masses once a month and, also, the party on the plaza. Why did we stop? These fellowships were mainly so new parishioners could get to know more people. But as it happened, new parishioners did not attend so much, and the same people were there all the time. There were conflicts with other events, too.

We discussed the issue of losing our Adult Faith Formation Coordinator and our Young Adult and Youth Minister. They have both resigned. These two positions were not actual Council members but did attend meetings so they could report their plans and provide their input. For the time being, these positions will not be filled, and the responsibilities have been absorbed by other parish staff.

We need to initiate evangelization programs. We have to be involved, and we need to find ways to get more of our parishioners involved, too. We need to raise the commitment level all around. We have vacancies on the Council to fill. Father Jeff will put a plea in the bulletin for prospective candidates. It was suggested that we also consider candidates from our Hispanic congregation. Adam knows someone from that group who would be excellent. He will talk to her, and, if she is agreeable, he will invite her to our next meeting.

Father Jeff gave the Council homework. He gave us some articles that deal with the seven elements that form the essence of parish life and that give some insight into a good, functioning Pastoral Council. Those seven elements are evangelization, worship, Word, community, service, stewardship, and leadership. The main focus of this exercise is evangelization.

**NEW BUSINESS** (continued)

Mimi brought up the ACSA, and why are we so below last year in our contributions. This led to a discussion of stewardship and the quality of tithing—whether it be weekly contributions or to the ASCA. Money is not an easy subject to approach, but economics being what they are, this has become more and more necessary. How do we politely stress to people they need to increase their contributions? Where the ACSA is concerned people generally figure that the balance we owe to the Diocese is taken out of our general fund. What they are not grasping is that our annual contribution is based on our Sunday collection receipts. Parishioners need to make their ASCA pledges/payments **DIRECTLY** to the Springfield Diocese, and then those amounts are **NOT** included in our annual collection totals. Thus, our ACSA commitment amount is lower. Father Jeff stated that the Finance Council will be discussing how to handle the 2012 “short-fall” at their February meeting.

Adam stated we need to be a part of the solution. Father Jeff said we need to catechize ourselves, get some fresh blood, do our homework, and get to work. Our parish has plenty of fire. We just need to figure out how to stoke it. He also stated that he does not want to see any of us leave, but if anyone, at this time, feels the duties of the Council is no longer a good fit, now would be a good time to step down. He stressed that he hoped no one would.

Our next meeting will be February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

Until then ...

READ PRAY RESOLVE

Father closed the meeting with the Hail Mary.

Respectfully submitted by  
Georgann Lautner