

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 16, 2010

MINUTES

Attendance

Present: Deacon Dan Ackerson, Jon DeVoll, Dan DiGuglielmo, Father Ray Forester, Pat Hearn, Ed Holley, Gerry Lore, Cathleen Lutz, Mary Theresa Morrison, Jack Mulholland, Mary Jane Schanno, Deacon Jerry Shaw, Jim Walsh, Bob Wohlar. Additional attendees: Pat DeVoll, Ed McGehrin, Rose Marie Patin, Lori Mathews, Denise Boswell, Betty McFann, Pat Edwards. Not Present: Lou Corozzi, Linda Coxtton(excused) Mindy Hete, Denise Westbrook (excused).

Dan DiGuglielmo, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 1900 and led the Council in an opening prayer.

Minutes from the Pastoral Council of February 16th were approved.

Pastor's Report

Father Forester showed the Council a copy of "Today's Parish" magazine and added that this is an excellent resource for all those who might be interested. Father also made available copies of the parish's current strategic plan which covers the 2006-2009 time period. He added that committees should refer to the current strategic plan and use it as a model or guide in developing a new one.

Dan DiGuglielmo stated that this meeting is an opportunity to come together once a year in the interest of furthering our parish mission and that our efforts in developing a new strategic plan should be guided by the vision and mission statements of our parish (handout of these statements provided). These two statements were reviewed and discussed. In formulating individual committee strategic plans, members should utilize SMART (handout distributed and reviewed). D DiGuglielmo additionally stated that the strategic plans presented this evening should be considered a first draft, a living, working document which can always be improved by incorporating ideas and suggestions from members outside of the individual committees. The stated goals should be realistic as well as measurable from both a qualitative as well as a quantitative standpoint. D DiGuglielmo reiterated the importance of committee goals and strategies reflecting the overall vision and mission of the Pastoral Council, that it's not necessary for a committee to develop a separate vision statement. The "mission"

is the purpose of the committee, its “goal” is what the committee wants to do to enhance this mission and the “strategies” focus on the specific actions or steps necessary to achieve the goal.

Presentation of Strategic Plans

Parish Outreach

Jon DeVoll presented the proposed plan for the Parish Outreach Committee. He began by highlighting the four specific ministries for which Parish Outreach is responsible and noted that “Bereavement” is now the responsibility of the Liturgy Committee. J DeVoll went on to add that although this strategic plan deals in generalities, the monthly committee reports to the Pastoral Council contains more specifics. After an overall review of the strategic plan was made, there was a suggestion that a strategy be added to involve parish youth and their families more actively in these ministries. It was likewise recommended that the “outcomes” component of the strategic plan compare the actual outcome of a specific activity to the goal for evaluation and that the committee continue to review these activities yearly to identify any positive or negative trends. When asked about the existence of an operating budget, J DeVoll stated the committee doesn’t really have one but requests for financial support for different ministries have been honored in the past.

Christian Formation

The draft of the strategic plan for Christian Formation was presented by Jim Walsh. He began by stressing the importance of understanding that this committee is a partnership between Religious Education, the Parish, and parents. The vision statement of the Committee was discussed at great length and it was felt that this statement is more of a “mission” statement. It was also felt that the Committee should place less emphasis on the word “teach” and more emphasis on “experience”. However, during the course of this discussion, it was also felt that this vision statement should focus more on making us disciples of Christ by forming our “spirituality” lifelong. After much deliberation, it was recommended that the “goal” be expanded to incorporate what was in the vision statement and that the vision statement be deleted.

Individual strategies were reviewed and discussed with recommendations from individual members of the Council.

Strategy #3 – There was a general consensus for increased family involvement in whole community catechesis.

Strategy #4 – There should be an increased emphasis on developing discipleship among teenagers.

Strategy #5 – Christian Formation and Parish Outreach should work in concert with each other to provide service opportunities for the youth of our parish.

Strategy #6 – For this strategy to be effective involvement of the clergy (priests and deacons) is imperative.

Strategy #7- The CFC is still working on developing its website

When asked about a budget Jim Walsh stated that they do in fact have a budget but it is not a part of the strategic plan.

After much discussion, Father Forester requested that members of the Christian Formation committee meet again to review and revise their strategic plan where necessary. Jim Walsh agreed that this could be done at their next regularly scheduled meeting on April 18, 2010.

Other Business

Deacon Dan Ackerson would like to revisit the concept of offering a “Family” Mass. He feels that the word, “family” could be misinterpreted.

Gerry Lore said that the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society has designated St. Edmond Church an historical site. A plaque will be presented to Father Forester and subsequently installed in the cornerstone of the Church.

The next meeting of the Pastoral Council is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20th at 1830. Since this meeting is scheduled to begin a half hour early, Pat Hearn volunteered to provide sandwiches to those in attendance.

Ed Holley delivered the closing prayer.

There being no further business, the Pastoral Council was adjourned around 2110.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy M. Krzyzanowski

