

Pastoral Council Minutes  
Meeting of January 10, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Gordon Clayton, Chairman. Members present: Fr. John Cotter, Marion Arnold, Daniel Brooks, Gordon Clayton, Howard Foley, Gail Lynch, Maedine Woods and Linda Yagley. Members absent: Mary Campbell and Terri Curtis. Also present: Dan Provost

The opening prayer was said in an old traditional way of praying called "lectio divina" by all present. Father suggested we begin all our meetings with this form of prayer to bring God's holy word alive in us.

The December 13, 2011 minutes were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections: Under Parish Core Team Update a second possible parish cohort combination could be St. Anne's of Edenville and our parish. Secondly, Gordie said a last name or initial should have been used to clarify which Dan was speaking (Provost/Brooks).

Old Business: Parish Core Team Update: Gordie said a meeting date with Pastoral Council, Finance Committee and our core team has not been established yet and asked us to be prepared to discuss these seven points at this upcoming meeting: Sacramental Life in the Parish/Evangelization/Catechesis/Catholic Schools/Lifelong Religious Education/Stewardship and Justice/Effective Administration.

Dan Provost speaks: Dan reported that the core team has met three times and said evangelization is primary in the planning of tomorrow's parishes. Dan commented on our upcoming pre-Lenten dinner dance as an excellent form of this evangelization. He also stated that a survey will be mailed to all parishioners on January 20 with a return date of February 13. He said people will be asked to respond to the points that apply to them. Dan also said small group meetings will be set up within the next 2-6 weeks and that all data for the cohorts must be ready by March. Gordie asked what time frame should we be looking at for the PC/Finance/core team meeting, and Dan replied it would be best done by late January/early February in case a second meeting is needed. Dan said he, Gordie and Tom Winarski need to get together to establish a date, and January 24 or 25 were determined good for Pastoral Council members with the meeting beginning at 6 PM.

Dan commented that another possible tool the core team could use is a town hall meeting. Dan also said there will be inserts in the next twelve church bulletins to keep our parishioners informed and help stimulate their ideas.

Other comments before Dan concluded were:

Father passed out a news article regarding Philadelphia schools closing and pointed out how their situation correlated well with ours.

Dan P. mentioned we've been asked if there are ways we could help other churches in our area.

Gordie asked if our school could be re-opened if neighboring parishes chose to send their children here.

Meeting With Pastoral Council, Finance Committee and Our Core Team: Dan P. will facilitate this meeting once the date has been established.

Pre-Lenten Dinner Dance Update: Gordie reports that plans are coming along very well. Gordie's wife will be leading the decorating, and the time for doing it has yet to be determined. Gordie said that tickets are now available in the office for \$15. Dan P. asked why it was being held at the K of C Hall, and Howard responded that it was because it was offered free of charge.

Faith Formation Dinner: We reviewed our previous idea for a pot luck dinner for parents of our older teens who aren't participating in Faith Formation. Maedine suggested this dinner be put on hold as there are several ideas Joanne Richards is already working on to try to bring in our teenagers, and council agreed.

Mission Update: Gordie asked where we're at on the 501-C project, and Father said the forms have been sent but approval has yet to be given.

Father said they are trying to get the diocese to pay more attention to our mission. Father also reported that there is a video pending on our mission. He noted that this year's Bishop's Charity Ball will be focusing on charities and that this video will be part of the presentations. Father commented that we should have people from our parish at the ball. Father also said that our mission is such a success that we would like other churches to approach us for advice on how our mission works for use in their own parishes. Father stated that it was from the bequest of the Schafer fund that we were able to expand, and our story needs to be told and explained so others could benefit.

Father John spoke praises of how well our mission board worked in a situation involving Shelter House that ended up totally amicably for all parties involved, and as a final comment, said our mission will eventually receive a donation check from the diocese in 2012.

Finance Update: Finance held no meeting in December, 2011.

Parish Directory: Gordie asked how choosing a photographer will be done, and Father replied that we need to establish a committee to work on getting the directory done by the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2013. The committee would then be responsible for picking the photographer. Father will ask Karen to prepare an insert for the church bulletin asking parishioners if they would be interested in being part of a new parish directory planning committee.

Public School Use of Our Gym: Father said the only public school children using our gym will be 5<sup>th</sup> graders with Sacred Heart parishioners for coaches, and they will be playing basketball.

New Business: None

Open Discussion: None

The next meeting of Pastoral Council will be Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 6 PM in the Parish Center Building.

All joined in the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Yagley, Secretary