

ST. ANDREW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
January 26, 2010

Present: Father Tom Slowinski, Dianne Bubnar, Kathy Diewald, Rick Fournier, Deacon Marc Gemellaro, Janet Iamarino, Michael Kasmicski, Betsy Koerber, Gerry Kraft, Juanita Mallmann, Brian Sangeorzan, Kathy Shultz, Kit Wojcik

Absent: Gregg Christensen

Guest: Art Haman

I. Opening Prayer:

The opening prayer was offered by Juanita Mallmann

II. Reflection:

A general discussion was had regarding Pope Benedict XVI's Encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, Fraternity, Economic Development and Civil Society.

Discussion was centered on the following:

- How might you take one step to avoid falling into a “consumerist” view of life?
- Where have you seen signs of hope in the economic crises?
- What way can you focus more on the person, the community and those in other countries?

III. Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

IV. Report Highlights

Christian Service Commission

Dianne Bubnar, Kathy Diewald

- Five members went to the Baldwin Soup Kitchen; 50 people were fed; the temperature was 18 degrees. The people kept coming back for seconds and thirds. They were very grateful.
- Care and Share will be for the needs of the Baldwin Center – white socks, towels, underwear and other personal items.
- Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for February 13th. Donors can register at the Red Cross website.
- Lenten Soup Supper will be February 19th at 6:00 p.m.
- Easter plants from Bordine's will be delivered to Medilodge
- Care and Share in May will be for the Veteran's Hospital – books, etc.
- It was suggested to have a box or boxes for cards and letters to the military in the Narthex of the Church.

Education Commission

Brian Sangeorzan

- Gregg Christensen mentioned the members are looking at things they should be doing as a commission.
- The commission discussed conducting a survey of the religious education parents with a focus to improve the method and content of delivery. The problem is the questions have to be pretty well done because we have to educate while asking questions.

Parish Life Commission

Kathy Shultz, Rick Fournier

- The Bereavement Ministry Holiday Brunch was well received; 80 people attended. There have been 25 funerals since late October.
- Elderly and Homebound Ministry is having a difficult time having people avail themselves of the services of the ministry. The ministry is looking at new ways to reach out.
- The Mentoring Ministry is continuing with the meetings to assist the unemployed. The leaders are trying to spread the load because the volunteers are beginning to burn out.
- Welcoming Ministry had 12 new families join St. Andrew in December; 10 new families in January.
- Kirsten Kesman has resigned as co-chair of the commission due to other responsibilities. Marie Jakubiak accepted the position of co-chair of the Parish Life Commission.
- Rick Fournier proposed that all the commission minutes as well as the parish council minutes should be posted on the website. Rick will contact Mike Marshall to evaluate this. The parish council minutes would be added to the website after approval at the Parish Council Meeting.

Stewardship Commission

Mike Kasmicki

- Collections are at 93%. The Christmas collection was 116%. All the staff and commissions are keeping expenses within the budget.

Vicariate

Kit Wojcik, Dianne Bubnar

- The Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes of the January 5th meeting were distributed in advance. Items of discussion included:
 - Pastoral Care of the Sick Initiative
 - The Vicar's report from Father Stan Ulman
 - Report from the Permanent Deacon Study ad hoc committee
- The Spring Assembly will be held March 11 at St. Paul Albanian Church. Father Timothy Radcliffe will speak. All members are encouraged to attend- about 700 people are expected. This meeting will be with the North Macomb Vicariate. The information regarding the meeting will be put on the website.
- The Archdiocese Pastoral Council is being reinstated as the primary lay consultative group for the Archbishop. The representative on this Council for our Vicariate is Steve Lawless.

Worship Commission**Janet Iamarino, Juanita Mallmann**

- The commission discussed evening prayer every night during Lent; scheduling problems were evaluated.
- Paul Bozymowski met with the committee to discuss the possibility of establishing a Centering Prayer group at St. Andrew. He is interested in presenting a workshop at St. Andrew Church.
- The decision regarding Friday morning Mass is under discussion.
- Sister Rebecca distributed a document entitled, "Popular Devotional Practices; Basic Questions and Answers". Sister asked the commission members to read the document and discuss at the next meeting.
- A committee was formed to address the issue of services in case of the absence of a priest. All suggestions are to be submitted to Father Tom for his input.

Staff**Father Tom**

- Mark Baker is going back on disability. Father Tom asked the members to remember Mark in their prayers. In the meantime, the staff is operating pretty much the way it did when Mark was on disability previously. Between Mark's company and Michelle, the budget is covered. Checks will be cut once a week – it will take more planning and patience.
- The Mission is coming up. Father Tom would like to see nothing else happen during the time the Mission is in session. There should be no other activities going on.
- The Lent/Easter newsletter is going to print at the end of the week. Due to the economy, the Post Office has made mailings complicated so we are contracting this out.
- The parish e-mail is coming along. Father Tom said please be mindful it is not possible to over publicize an event. We have tried to make our communication concise and readable:
 - the bulletin
 - the e-mail blasts
 - the website.

V. Discussion Item – Lifesaving Training

Dave Papandrea will conduct CPR training on February 13th – informational training on how to handle emergencies that may occur in the church or home.

VI. Action Items**A. Parish Assembly**

- Rick advised we have a Word Document and Power Point presentation from every commission. Rick is arranging a meeting of the committee to formalize the formats. We are going to try to focus on the input from the parishioners. It will serve multiple purposes.

- Facilitators were discussed. Father Tom suggested Jim Keefer would be excellent – he is very intense – he would be great in this capacity.

B. St. Andrew Parish 100th Anniversary

- Father Tom met with a travel consultant. One of the things suggested is the sense of the journey of your faith life. There are pilgrimages to the Holy Land and Rome. There could be two separate pilgrimages; one in February 2011 – 8 or 9 days to the Holy Land. Another Pilgrimage could be in November 2010 to Rome.
- We could have a series of events – a wide range in terms of interests, ages, expense level, etc. We need a variety of events that are multi-faceted.
- Father Tom asked the members to come up with ideas that are as unique as the centennial itself.
- Father Tom suggested assembling a committee could be beneficial to the whole issue. It would be a group of people committed to a two-year project – detailed and organized. It would be up to the committee to look at the possibilities honestly and politically and put together the best variety of ideas.
- Rick suggests this be discussed at the commissions to see if someone is interested to be on the committee.
- Father Tom said it has been a rewarding experience to see people respond to the need as far as the centennial celebration is concerned. A lady approached Father Tom and expressed interest in writing a book about the history of the parish. You can have the best committee for the activity but their heart has to be in it.
- The anniversary activities will have to be budgeted depending on what the events are – we will have to have ideas to evaluate the costs. The trips would have to be self-funded.

Respectfully submitted:
Betsy Koerber