

Holy Family
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
January 25, 2009

The meeting opened at 11:40 A.M. with the ARISE Prayer

We reviewed minutes from our last meeting in October 2008 and no changes were made.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sue gave us an update on upcoming events planned. On February 23rd Fr. Jack will host a Trivia Night for youth and adults. In March the Youth Ministry is planning a Talent Show for parishioners and in May a dance is planned for high school youth.

Discussion on how to get youth involved centered on activities such as the monthly healing service, ARISE, the upcoming Mission to be held during Lent, the Chowder Suppers etc.

HEALING SERVICE

Joyce gave an update on the monthly healing service that Fr. McPherson is holding on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Two have been held thus far. The second was not as well attended due to the inclement weather.

A question was raised as to the frequency (every month) rather than maybe every other month. Joyce mentioned that the number in attendance is not as important as the opportunity to participate in a healing service. The main question is whether Fr. McPherson is available every month.

PARISH UPDATE

Fr. Jack mentioned the constant state of change in our parish over the last 10 years and the challenges (opportunities) we are facing. He stated that we are trying to focus on the spiritual development of the parish with the Stewardship Appeal currently underway. The appeal is focusing on the “treasure” aspect as it is obvious that our financial situation needs improvement. John (Lahey) pointed out that due to weather the last 4 weeks (snow every weekend) has been devastating with weekly collections in the \$4000.00 range which is significantly lower than normal. Fr Jack mentioned the presentation John has given at Masses the last two weeks and the fact that he (the Pastor) will be addressing everyone at the Masses next weekend.

Chris spoke about the new “Theology on Tap” group which will focus on parishioners between the ages of 20 – 30. After questions Chris said a different group could be established for “40’s” age group if enough interest was shown.

Fr. Jack updated the Council on a meeting he held with clergy for All Saints Church.

The meeting focused on three areas:

1. Would there / could there be any incentive on the part of All Saints Parish if we were to vacate the two buildings at their property (former Sacred Heart) earlier than the 2010 time line as agreed to in the Sales Contract?
2. If the Stain Glass windows (which we have the option of taking by the 2010 deadline) were left would All Saints Parish be interested in purchasing them?
3. Would Holy Family Parish be willing to allow "All Saints" to begin using the two buildings, currently under Holy Family Parish control, on a regular basis.

Subsequently Bishop Bill Murdock sent an e-mail to Fr. Jack, after a meeting with their group leaders, stating that financially they could not offer us an incentive to vacate early or to purchase the windows.

With regard to the using the buildings on a regular basis they had checked with our Archdiocese Office and were told the insurance issue was not a problem, which was one of the reasons Fr. Jack stated was a concern during his discussion to say no to their earlier request. Fr Jack mentioned there were other issues concerning the ability of both parishes using the buildings such as utility costs, times of use, etc.

PPC discussion then centered on the possibility of not just saying "NO" rather perhaps, by working together, we could possibly work out an arrangement that would be beneficial to both Parishes. No definitive action or way to proceed was discussed.

Fr. Jack mentioned he had been approached by some parishioners that suggested perhaps it would be good for us to have a News Letter. He asked for input from the council which agreed that it would be a good idea to pursue the possibility further. Fr. Jack will report back to the group so that it can be reviewed further.

It was mentioned that the next session of ARISE is in the planning stage and that "Sign Up Sunday" will be the weekend of the 7th and 8th of February and will begin in March. Chris also mentioned that the Lenten Mission will be incorporated into the Arise Program Schedule. She is looking for volunteers to help make the Mission a success and will need Several volunteers.

RENOVATION

Fr. Jack told the council that we had received approval from the Archdiocese to proceed with the next phase of the new "Parish Center" renovation. He stated that while there has been some delay we are still ahead of schedule but money is "very tight". He stated the Archdiocese would like to see us reduce our spending. He mentioned he had been at the Archdiocese looking at ways the Cemetery (\$80,000.00 debt to parish) could reduce costs or generate increased income. He mentioned that a new section of the cemetery will be opened soon and there are suggestions on how the Cemetery could increase income. One example would be to install and then sell the vault liners. The Archdiocese also asked Fr. Jack why we were not "renting" out our hall to generate income. When he stated that there was the issue of liability and that some time ago the Archdiocese said we couldn't he was told that was not so. The council agreed that it is a possibility worth pursuing.

There being no other business Fr. Jack led us in the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

