

The Pastoral Advisory Council of Saint Luke Church

Westport, CT
14th Meeting
16 December 2008

MINUTES

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER: *Jeff Ford*

SECRETARY FOR THIS MEETING: *Jean Fredricks*

IN ATTENDANCE: Msgr. Andy Varga, Jeff Ford, Guest John Krubski, Mary Hanrahan, Cathy Zappi, Missey Moe-Cook, Grace Shea, Bill Valieant, Katy Garvey and Jean Fredricks.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES: The minutes from last month's meeting were approved.

REPORTS

Pastor's Update (*Msgr. Andy Varga*) There have been no major changes. Msgr. Andy requested we keep Ed Chappa in prayer, as he is seriously ill. Msgr. Andy offered thanks and congratulations to all who were involved in the concert. Channel 12 was present and interviewed Tom. Attendance was good. An invitation had been sent to all local pastors.

Paul: Requested information, a neighbor told him he had received a request from St. Luke for a donation. Msgr. Andy stated no request had been solicited, Paul will question the neighbor.

Guest Speaker (John Krubski)

Jeff introduced our guest speaker, John Krubski.

John Krubski: Surveys have been around a long time. What is the purpose of a survey? We can go small or really use it as an instrument to get people more involved. What are you looking for?

Msgr. Andy: We want to improve attendance. Why are seats empty? We tend to take the blame for poor attendance. We want people to discover or rediscover St. Luke and encourage our church goers to bring others.

Paul: Reaching out to get others involved.

Jean: What can a survey change or improve?

John called for a vote. Do we want a straight survey or an event that would invite participation involving all of our interested parishioners to spread the message? "What Matters Most?" Start with an invitation for people to give their e-mail (or phone number). Get our young people to enter data in the computer. Continue with events to keep people involved. Continue to ask and share feedback regarding "What Matters Most?". Get our community of people to reach out to othes. Perhaps a document of 10 to 14 pages.

Msgr. Andy voiced concerns on the church being unable to answer all people's concerns.

John: we will use the questions to discover and find answers beginning slowly and use validation. Our goal is to find out why the seats are empty. We would hope for a 10% to 12% response.

Msgr. Andy: Recently 5 or 6 people approached Fr. Fred or Msgr. Andy about being out of work. What can we do for them? It's possible to start a group to reach out to support each other.

John: Start interest in such an event as soon as possible, enabling people to express their interest via email or a form in the bulletin. Invite everyone to participate. Make it a short time-line, perhaps 90 days. Use every event to plug the invitation to get involved. Maintain a stream of short notes in the bulletin. Keep the people involved. The event rather than a survey brings us closer to an engaged church.

Jeff: Thanked John for his time and sharing his expertise. John left us with an offer of continued assistance and his e-mail address: Krubski@Krubski.com.

Family Life Task Force (*Paul Bowlin, Cathy Zappi & John Revay*)

Paul reported that he was not pleased with the publicity for Santa's Breakfast. He placed 60 calls to Religious Ed students in grades K-3. He ended up speaking to about 15 people and picked up some volunteers. About 10 or 12 Confirmation students volunteered and worked the breakfast. There was some misinformation regarding times. It's important to have exact info regarding start and end times. Caroling is planned for Friday night. Refreshments will be served. Paul questioned the termination of the popular "Bingo" Msgr. Andy reminded us it is important that we stay within legal limits and because there is a charge to play, it is considered gambling and would require permits.

Communications Task Force (*Missey Moe-Cook, Bill Valieant, Mary Hanrahan & Tim Weiss*)

Missy reported they are updating parish events in the bulletin and creating a weekly column about St. Luke ministries. A letter is being sent to all local realtors with general St. Luke information. A letter will be sent directly to new people in town.

Parish website: Over 21,000 hits. Do we have the ability to monitor what info is requested most? Generally Mass times and basic info. Msgr. Andy will work on updates.

The Shepherd Program (*Mary Hanrahan*) Shepherdesses will hold a meeting the second week in January. How will they get names of new parishioners? Whatever happened to the women's guild? Not a popular concept any longer.

OLD BUSINESS

2008 PAC Objectives & Parish Covenant (*Msgr. Andy Varga & Jeff Ford*)

Jeff: Please read and reflect on the parish Covenant. As results emerge from our "events" we may already have some responses in place. Nurture it to reflect what matters most to you. Deal with concepts and don't get bogged down with the language. Thank you for responding to the Parish Covenant, now how can we make the most of it? Please reread and explore the long and short versions before the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Parish Events

Religious Formation Classes for Grades K-8 – Sun, Mon, Wed & Thur each week

Children's Liturgy of the Word – Sundays each week @ 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Faith Forum – Tuesdays each week @ 10:30 am

Community Bible Study – Wednesdays @ 10:00 am

Mosaics – Thursdays each week @ 10:00 am

Adult Choir Rehearsal – Thursdays each week @ 8:00 pm

No-Hassle Confession – December 17 @ 5:00 and 7:30 pm

Family Christmas Caroling Party – December 19

Youth Group Blood Drive – December 20 @ American Red Cross

Decorating Church for Christmas – December 22

CHRISTMAS – December 25

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD HOLYDAY – January 1

Anointing Mass – January 10 @ 5:30 pm Mass

Sweethearts' Mass – February 14 @ 5:30 pm Mass

International Dinner – February 21 following the 5:30 pm Mass

ASH WEDNESDAY – February 25

Sacrament of First Eucharist – April 19 & 26

Sacrament of Confirmation – May 21

Youth Group Summer Mission Trip – July 19 – 25

Other Topics

Missy: Does PAC have the responsibility to decide if an event continues or not? PAC was formed as an advisory committee. We provide Msgr. Andy with insight into what we hear, which can often provide a lead in for Andy, opening a conversation with the person or group involved.

NEXT MEETINGS: January 13; February 10; March 10; April 14; May 12; June 9

ADJOURNMENT