

The Pastoral Advisory Council of Saint Luke Church

Westport, CT
16th Meeting
10 February 2009

MINUTES

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER: *Jeff Ford*

SECRETARY FOR THIS MEETING: *Steven Violette*

IN ATTENDANCE: *Msgr. Andy Varga, Jeff Ford, Jean Fredricks, John Revay, Bill Valieant, Paul Bowlin, Steve Violette, Sharon Carpenter and Missey Moe-Cook. Guests: Nola Ungari and Ed Bagnulo.*

ABSENT: *Mary Hanrahan, Katie Garvey, Grace Shay, Cathy Zappi.*

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES: The minutes from January 13, 2009 were approved.

REPORTS

Pastor's Update (Msgr. Andy Varga);

- Update;
 - Memorial tree of life is being put up. An outreach to people who made pledges is next.
 - The Annual St. Luke Corporate meeting required by the State of CT was held on January 31. The meeting was to review financial reports and pass resolutions to continue as a non profit organization in CT. The bishop is the president of the corporation, the vicar of the church is vice president, and the pastor is treasurer and secretary. There are two parishioners on the board also.
 - Msgr. Andy responded to Missey Moe-Cook's query as to collections. He commented that collections continue at a steady higher level than before the Offering Campaign; Msgr. Andy also mentioned that he was happy they went through the campaign when they did as those who waited are probably having a tough time due to the worsening economy. Msgr. Andy mentioned that we need to continue thanking people for their support.
 - Msgr. Andy said that staff meetings had been held to gear up for Lent – all seems to be well
 - There was a discussion about the parish census and Andy stated the 1,500 number was more reliable than the 1,800 number when he arrived at St. Luke. The diocesan census tracking program is slowly working.
 - Msgr. Andy said there was an ongoing discussion with the Town of Westport on the sidewalk issue. Andy mentioned that John Izzo told him he would try to see what he could do to blunt or change the sidewalk issue but Andy felt it would eventually mean they would have to redo the sidewalks with asphalt. He mentioned that he was waiting for spring to see how all the plantings etc look so as to get back from the Town a \$23,000 bond which could be used to soften the financial blow of the sidewalk costs.
 - There was a discussion about costs related to snow removal plowing etc and a question came up re: competitive bids. Msgr. Andy commented

that the diocese was going to implement a new financial manual that would require an increase of competitive bids in the future.

Finance – There was no financial report this month.

Family Life (Paul Bowlin);

- St Patrick's Day
 - Paul noted that he tried to get dates from Fr. Fred, Lance and Andy for several events. Religious Ed and SLY had 2 of 5 times taken there would be no St. Patrick's Day event. (see below)
- Toboggan Bingo;
 - Paul noted there were not enough people to run the event and provide prizes. Also the timing was too tight to get it off the ground – pass for now. Steve agreed to see if Bill Heery would consider helping later in the year.
- Family Mass
 - Paul noted that up to 25 families were serving as hosts etc at the family Mass. 2 New families were doing the coffee socials. Paul said 50% of the people he asked to serve agreed to do so. Ed Bagnulo asked if this was a source for other parish needs and Paul responded that he was just focused on the Family Mass at this point. Paul felt the program would be self sustaining.

Communications (Missey Moe-Cook);

- Missey gave a recap of the Shepherd program before Sharon arrived and said she expected there would be a St. Patrick's Day event at Sharon's home.
- Communications
 - Missey had planned something in the bulletin re: ushers but John Francis had asked her to hold off till he got back so he could have the 11am crew work on getting new people. As a result Missey said the bulletin announcement would call for new Eucharistic Ministers.
 - Missey is targeting the March 9th bulletin to focus on Lecture training. She has 9 new lectures and teen training going on. Hopefully she will have 5-6 more adults in March. This is a work in process.
 - John Revay asked about the counseling for those who have lost their jobs and gave examples of other churches with programs. A discussion ensued. Msgr. Andy said they had limited success to date and mentioned that St. Luke should focus on the spiritual side of the issue.

Shepherd Program (Sharon Carpenter);

- St. Patrick's Day dinner
 - Sharon said she had discussed with others including Lisa Purcell and Diane Johnson having a St. Patrick's Day party. Her goal is to generate \$3,000 to pay for the Easter baskets.
 - They have decided to do a party at Sharon's home and charge a nominal amount. The event should attract a different group than other church events and the different venue would allow invitations to friends and family not currently at St Luke.
 - They have decided on march 14th at 7pm for the event. It should be mentioned in the bulletin and Sharon would arrange to gather emails at the event.

- Msgr Andy told Sharon that his chef friends might want to be involved as they liked doing St. Patrick's Day meals.

OLD BUSINESS

- Parish Covenant;
 - Jeff led a discussion regarding the Parish Covenant. Steve reviewed the draft and made some additional improvements.
 - Msgr. Andy noted that a few of the slogans needed to be refined so that readers can make an easy connection to the covenant. It was agreed that all would take another shot at the covenant.
- Nominating Committee – Jeff reiterated that he wanted people to start thinking about names of potential new members. It was decided to do both a bulletin announcement and personal invitation. Jeff felt in any case we would have to go to personal recommendations at some point. Msgr. Andy went over the process in that the PAC should develop a list of nominees who would agree to participate and then Msgr. Andy would make it official.
- What matters most to you – Jeff commented that they now have 11 email addresses and looked forward to getting together with John Krubski to move forward. Jeff will try to schedule a time with John, Andy and Steve.
- Saint Luke Reads program – Sharon discussed beginning a Saint Luke Reads program and suggested we use *The Shack* as the initial text. Sharon mentioned that she and Diane Johnson would arrange a discussion and she asked Msgr. Andy to share his thoughts at that time.

NEW BUSINESS

- Lenten Soup Supper – John Revay shared that a friend's parish does a soup social each week of Lent and suggested St. Luke might do the same. It was discussed and Jean and Steve said they would make a soup. It was also mentioned that maybe it be only 1 or 2 weeks. John to explore and coordinate. [Editorial Note: Family Lenten Supper = Friday March 20]

ADJOURMENT

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 10, 2009.