

**The Pastoral Advisory Council of St. Luke Church
Westport, CT
21st Meeting
October 13, 2009**

Minutes

Secretary for this meeting: Ed Bagnulo

In Attendance: Msgr. Andy Varga, Mary Attanasio, Ed Bagnulo, Frank Costello, Jeff Ford, Emily Hanrahan, Grace Shay, Greg Taylor, Bill Valieant

Absent: Don Caiati, Missey Moe-Cook, Max Moran, John Revay, Nola Ungari, Steve Violette

Welcome & Opening Prayer: Jeff Ford

Review & Approval of Minutes: Minutes for meeting of 9/15/09 were approved. Minutes of 5/12/09 and 6/9/09 were distributed via e-mail subsequent to the 10/13 meeting and are to be approved on-line via Doodle.

Pastor Update: Msgr. Andy

Certificate of Occupancy: COO received for Gathering Space and rectory office. Msgr. Andy will now ask for return of landscaping bond.

Cuneen Project (Increased Offertory Campaign): The planned three mailings to parishioners have been sent out. Response to date indicates a potential increase of \$600.00 per week in the Offertory collection. Msgr. Andy would like to reach a projected increase of at least \$1,000.00 per week. The mailing has also resulted in an increased interest in electronic giving.

Money Counters: Msgr. Andy has recruited several more people to count the money each weekend which will enable us to rotate the task among several teams instead of just one. This will also put us in compliance with the Diocesan Procedure Manual.

Upcoming Events (Parish Calendar):

Feast of St. Luke: Sunday 10/18/09

St. Augustine Medal of Service Honorees for 2009: Carl & Bernice Liba

Morning of Reflection with Blessed Sacrament Parish: Saturday 10/17/09

Annual Bereavement Mass: Saturday 11/7/09

Men's Retreat Weekend: 11/6-8/09 at Holy Family Retreat in West Hartford. In an attempt to increase attendance, Msgr. Andy is hosting an in-rectory tailgate party in

conjunction with the pro football game on Sunday 10/25 for potential retreat attendees.

Harvest Fair: 11/21 & 22/09

Christmas Fair/Live & Silent Auctions: 12/5/09—There was brief discussion about how to increase revenue (funds for outreach distribution) from the Fair and how to freshen it. In past years we have been able to distribute as much as \$50-\$60,000; last years distribution was under \$30,000. A parishioner has volunteered to generate publicity for the Fair, something that has not been done in a year or two. Hopefully this will increase attendance and thus revenue. As the raffle permit has been obtained, tickets printed and some live auction items confirmed, significant changes in the Fair will have to wait for another year.

Breakfast with Santa: Sunday 12/6/09.

Parish Covenant: This document was developed last year to state what parishioners can expect of St. Luke Church and what does St. Luke Church expect in return. The five areas discussed are Liturgy and Sacraments, Religious Formation, Parish Life and Community, Relationship with Staff, and Stewardship. It was agreed that there is much to digest in the document. Consensus was reached that PAC should attempt to identify one possible action step from the Covenant and take the necessary steps this year to execute it. To this end the Covenant was distributed to each PAC member to re-read and be in a position to discuss and hopefully identify an “action step” at the 11/10 meeting.

Shepherd’s Program: This program is to be directed at new parishioners only; to welcome and successfully bring them into the St. Luke community. Mary Hanrahan who leads this program was unable to attend the meeting to update PAC, but plans to join us in November. It was noted that the Shepherd’s Program could be a catalyst for getting new people involved in the parish and obtaining fresh thinking. It was also suggested that perhaps the Gathering Space could be utilized in some way to welcome new parishioners. There was interest in organizing a new parishioner dinner by the end of the year. A leader is needed.

Parish Life Committee: The role of this committee is to coordinate Family Life Events. It needs leadership and clear focus. Further discussion will continue at the 11/10 meeting.

St. Luke Communications: PAC was in agreement that there is a need for publicity and press attention for many of the activities at St. Luke. An individual(s) is needed to lead this activity. Mary Attanasio indicated that she might be willing to get involved, but not necessarily lead. Frank Costello agreed to discuss the subject with one or two people and report back on 11/10.

St. Luke/Blessed Sacrament Partnership: Missey Moe-Cook and Frank Costello plan to meet with Fr. Reggie and the Blessed Sacrament Finance Committee on Tuesday 10/20. They will report back to Msgr. Andy and PAC on the results of the meeting.

St. Luke Youth Group (SLY): Emily Hanrahan and Grace Shay reported. The group numbers about 50 active teens under the leadership of Debbie Toner. They are busy and already have a schedule of events planned for the year. Currently a clothing drive for children's garments is under way. A team building day is planned at the Wilton Y. A youth Mass and dinner is planned. Teens will again be raking leaves for the elderly and shut-ins on Election Day. The group is considering an art auction to help defray the cost of the bus that took them to Pittsburgh last Spring. Current plans are to go to Nashville, TN in July '10 for the group's annual outreach effort.

New Business: The severe lack of altar servers at weekend Masses was noted. Msgr. Andy responded that recruiting efforts had not been successful as serving was not "cool" and many other activities competed for the young peoples' time. This subject will be discussed further in the future.

Next Meeting: November 10, 2009 at 7:30pm