

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**May 7, 2007**  
**6:30 PM, Ark Room**

Attendees: Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Tony Acuna, Norm Brennecke, Lorraine Chambers, Julie Dulac, Bob Guzik, Karen Moss, Dan Muckensturm, Karen Stonecipher, Bill Stewart, and Rob Taylor.

Absent: Nicholas Alberts, Brett Ensor, Jose Rodriguez, Yolanda Rodriguez

Father Bob opened the meeting with prayer.

Special Sacramental Programs

Julie Dulac opened discussion with comments from parishioners regarding the Special Sacramental Programs. Council members had no comments to report. Members indicated they had explained the concept of the program to many parishioners. Council members also answered questions that parishioners had.

Discussion took place on the methods that were used to get word out about the possible changes to this program. Father Bob made announcements, notes were placed in the bulletin, and the PPC minutes from April reflected the ideas and layout for the program. Beth Wright, Director of Faith Formation, sent home notes to catechists and parents asking them to check the PPC minutes and come to the Town Hall Meeting to voice their opinions.

Council discerned the possible drawbacks that the Special Sacramental program would present. These included:

- Time commitments of students (additional time would be spent on Sacramental Formation **along with** regular Faith Formation classes)
- Multiple sessions would not be offered. This might present scheduling problems.
- Family members (or a sponsor) must also attend each session with the student.

If students were unable to attend a session, a “homework packet” would be given to the family for completion. As well, Father Bob mentioned that Sacred Heart in Rowlett will be offering the same program in the fall. Our Lady of the Lake might look into working with Sacred Heart to offer make-up session at each other’s parish.

The Council also discussed the positive aspects to the program:

- There would be greater knowledge and understanding of each sacrament
- The program is intergenerational—all ages are involved and anyone can attend
- There will no longer be stigma attached to not making a sacrament by a “certain age”
- Various learning methods would be incorporated in the program
- Opportunity to include various volunteers who can’t commit to a whole year of catechesis, but could commit to fewer sessions
- Students would attend regular faith formation classes with their peers, regardless of what sacraments they have or have not received

Father Bob committed to spend part of the day with as many of the sessions as his schedule would allow. Council members expressed concerns with what would happen with a lack of attendance from some students. Students NEED to be present, and rules need to be in place when there is failure to comply.

Council members agreed that the Special Sacramental program would provide a positive change to the Sacramental Formation of OLOL's youth. All were in favor of recommending the program beginning in the fall, 2007.

Father Bob asked if anyone had heard comments regarding shifting the Confirmation program to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. No comments or feedback were reported from parishioners. Given that the majority of parishes in the Dallas area had shifted to confirming in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the Council recommended that the Confirmation program be switched to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Parents, though, would have the option of confirming at a later age if they saw fit.

#### Time Changes to Faith Formation

Julie Dulac opened discussion with comments from parishioners regarding time changes to Faith Formation. Council members had comments regarding positive feedback to the 4:00 weekday sessions, both on Monday and on Wednesday. A parishioner did propose ideas regarding home-school Faith Formation and ways the program could be supported. This parishioner was very excited about the possibilities of the program.

Discussion took place on the methods that were used to get word out about the possible changes in Faith Formation days and times. Father Bob made announcements, notes were placed in the bulletin, and the PPC minutes from March and April reflected the basis behind the idea. Beth Wright, Director of Faith Formation, sent home notes to catechists and parents asking them to check the minutes and come to the Town Hall Meeting to express thoughts and concerns.

Members of the council agreed that more classrooms would be available on weeknights, and the switch from weekend Faith Formation would dramatically increase parking and space in our current facility on Sunday mornings. Various safe environment concerns would be alleviated, and mass would be the focal point of coming to church on the weekends.

After much discussion, Council members recommended that Faith Formation on Sunday mornings be eliminated altogether, and instead, be offered on designated weekdays that best meet the needs of the majority of the parishioners.

Registration for Faith Formation will begin in August. Beth Wright, Director of Children's Faith Formation, will send out intent cards to get an idea of the numbers of families/students who will be attending Faith Formation sessions, and the number of teachers who would be willing to volunteer. Faith Formation sessions will begin the week of Monday, September 17, 2007.

#### Town Hall Meeting, Lessons Learned

Because of absences this month, the consensus was to defer the topic of the Town Hall Meeting until the June Council meeting. Karen Moss will send out an email requesting

additional lessons learned from the Town Hall Meeting. All lessons will be compiled and emailed to the council. Members are responsible for viewing these notes and providing comments and feedback during the June council meeting.

#### Parking/Access Subcommittee Report

The Parking/Access Subcommittee gave a presentation and answered questions regarding the thoughts and ideas that were communicated. (Please see attached Power Point presentation for details.) It was the recommendation of the Parish Pastoral Council that the Parking/Access Subcommittee request to present these ideas and options to the Finance Council on May 23.

#### Space Subcommittee Report

Due to the sensitive nature of real estate matters, this report was made and discussed in executive sessions. At the earliest appropriate time details will be released to the parish as they become available.

#### Pastoral Planning, Subcommittee Report

Father Bob indicated that another person had been added to the Pastoral Planning subcommittee. Catherine Macaluso, who will be coordinating the parish directory in the fall, was also asked to sit on this subcommittee. This group is comprised of Father Bob, Maria Dempsey, Julie Dulac, Karen Moss, Lupe Hernandez, as well as Catherine Macaluso. Sometime this summer, the subcommittee will begin discerning how the parish directory, a parish survey, census, and Stewardship can be tied together into planning for the parish.

#### Ministry Liaison Reports

Because of the late hour, Julie Dulac asked if liaison reports could be emailed to Karen Moss. Karen will compile these reports and email them to members of the council. Council members are responsible for viewing these notes and having appropriate comments and feedback available for discussion during the June meeting. As well, council members should discern possible agenda topics from these reports, if needed.

#### Ash Wednesday, 2008

Council members reported no feedback from parishioners regarding the tentative Ash Wednesday schedule for 2008.

Father Bob approved the following schedule for Ash Wednesday, 2008:

- 6:30 AM—Bilingual Mass
- 12:00 PM—English Mass
- 4:00 PM—Faith Formation sponsored Liturgy of the Word/Distribution of Ashes (English)
- 6:00 PM—English Mass
- 8:00 PM—Liturgy of the Word/Distribution of Ashes (Spanish)

#### Time and Talent, Subcommittee

Bill Stewart, Bob Guzik, and Dan Muckensturm agreed to comprise the Time and Talent subcommittee. Bill will serve as chair for this subcommittee. The group will get together and work out the framework for Time and Talent. All council members will be part of the

Time and Talent process which includes the three month preparation set up the day of the event, running the event, and clean up the day of the event.

Julie Dulac indicated that a budget needed to be set by the subcommittee, and proposed to the Finance Council. Karen Moss will email Bill the “lessons learned” document from last year’s Time and Talent event.

#### Comments by Father Bob

Father Bob presented a revised organizational chart. Some of the changes noted on the organizational structure would begin to take place this summer.

#### Concerns of Parishioners

Julie Dulac indicated that the Council received an offer from a parishioner to supply snacks during future PPC meetings. The parishioner had noticed when reading the minutes that snacks were provided and wanted to help. Council members agreed that this was a timely offer as the current snack host might be absent for the June meeting. Julie indicated she would contact the parishioner and work out the details.

A parishioner expressed the desire to have a Boy Scout troop meet at Our Lady of the Lake. The council agreed that this would be a viable option if there was availability in space and all Safe Environment policies were followed. The council recommended the parishioner be contacted, and a note be placed in the bulletin for anyone interested in a scouting troop at OLOL. All interested should come to the June Council meeting. Those attending the June meeting will be expected to present a proposal outlining what would be entailed in this endeavor. Norm Brennecke agreed to contact the parishioner; Karen Stonecipher will post an item in the bulletin with the information for all parishioners.

A parishioner expressed concern with the parish website, indicating it could be better utilized and formatted. Father Bob indicated that a full-time parish secretary would be hired within the next month. He advised that the topic wait until the June meeting when she could be present, as part of her responsibilities would be updating and improving the parish website. The council agreed to postpone this topic until the June meeting.

The question was raised by a parishioner regarding the proper posture prior to mass—isn’t this a reverent time, should people be quiet to respect those that are meditating or praying? As well, a similar comment was placed in the suggestion box regarding the number of unruly children during the mass. What could be done about this? A council member discussed that it appeared parishioners are still confused about what to do after communion while Father Bob is “washing the dishes”. Father Bob indicated that he had made announcements, placed notes in the bulletin, and it was even discussed in earlier PPC meetings, and noted in the minutes. Father Bob suggested that the item be placed on the June agenda and addressed again at that time.

The council received positive feedback from parishioners regarding simulcast of the Easter Sunday celebration, both at 8:30 and at 10:45. Some ushers indicated that the 10:45 simulcast was chaotic at times. The item was placed on the June agenda for further discussion, and with hopes that parishioners will continue to give feedback on their thoughts to each of the Masses.

### PPC/FC Hospitality Schedule for May

Because of the Memorial Day weekend holiday, there will be no PPC/Finance Council Hospitality this month.

### Snacks/Closing Prayer for June PPC Meeting

Julie reminded Karen Moss that she was assigned to snacks for the June 4 PPC meeting. As well, Bill Stewart is assigned to do a closing prayer.

### June Agenda Items

Topics for the June PPC meeting were discussed. Priorities for this meeting include:

- Officer Elections
- Town Hall Meeting, Lessons Learned
  - Junta Parroquial, Lessons Learned
- Subcommittee Reports
  - Space
  - Access/Parking
  - Pastoral Planning
  - Time and Talent
- Ministry Liaison Reports
  - Report thoughts from absentee Council members (homework)
  - Discern thoughts and ideas from Council members present
- Boy & Girl Scout Troops in our Parish
- Parish Website
- Need For Catechesis Regarding Mass
- Posture During Mass
  - Silence Before Mass
  - What to Do After Communion
- Simulcast System
- Building July Agenda
  - Comments by Father Bob
  - Report Concerns of Parishioners
  - PPC/FC Hospitality Schedule for June
  - July Agenda Items/June Bulletin Notes

### June Bulletin Notes

Items for June Bulletin Notes were suggested:

- Ask parishioners interested in a OLOL scouting troop to attend the June PPC meeting
- Include thanks to parishioners for attending and participating in the Town Hall Meeting
- June 4 PPC agenda

Bob Guzik ended the meeting with a closing prayer.