

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**November 12, 2007**  
**6:30 p.m., Saints of the America's Room**

Attendees: Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Tony Acuna, Norm Brennecke, Lorraine Chambers, Julie Dulac, Bob Guzik, Dan Muckensturm, Karen Moss, Jose Rodriguez, Yolanda Rodriguez, Bill Stewart, Karen Stonecipher, Rob Taylor, and Lupe Martinez (Finance Council).

Absent: Nicholas Alberts and Brett Ensor

Father Bob opened the meeting with prayer.

The agenda for the meeting was altered somewhat due to some members running a few minutes late. The Council members that were present felt New Membership should be discerned by all current PPC members. The Council agreed to move to the next agenda item, space.

Space Subcommittee Report

Father Bob reported that there is no action to be taken at this time.

Parking/Access Subcommittee Report

Father Bob asked that this report be given under Executive Session.

New Membership Subcommittee Report

Bob Guzik reported that this subcommittee had hosted the informational meeting for parishioners interested in the Parish Pastoral Council. The Council members present at this meeting were very excited about the parishioners who attended the meeting. Bob noted that some parishioners who were interested in the Council were unable to attend the informational meeting. However, the sub-committee members expressed some disappointment in the seemingly low interest of the parish as a whole. There was discernment of the cause of the low turnout at this informational meeting. Council members discussed how we might better advertise the need for new Council members in the future. The following was discussed:

1. Begin the process earlier, possibly August or September.
2. Approach parishioners that are not currently heavily involved in the parish.
3. More advertising of upcoming vacancies.
4. Attend various church organization meetings to create interest.

However, the Council was excited about the applications that were received from parishioners and discernment took place under executive session. Bob

Guzik will call the candidates to invite them to the Parish Pastoral Council and new members will be announced at the December meeting.

#### Stewardship Subcommittee Report

Fr. Bob reported that the Stewardship Subcommittee had held its second meeting. This subcommittee has decided to meet each month following Benediction beginning January 4, 2008. They will also have a light potluck supper during their meetings.

The subcommittee will also begin a three-month study of the U. S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship that describes and fosters the gospel spirituality of sharing.

#### Parish Website Subcommittee

Lorraine Chambers submitted the results of the survey that was sent to Ministry Heads, as well as, PPC and Finance Council members. A copy of the results is attached to these minutes. Rob Taylor informed the Council that Mike Phillipus is now on the committee. Mike has much experience with websites and computers. Lorraine reported that the committee is having some difficulty getting information needed in order to set up a meeting with Camelback, our present website provider. The committee wants to meet with Camelback and other providers to discuss costs, and to gain specifics about the capabilities of these website providers. Camelback is increasing the fee charged to OLOL. The committee requested permission from Fr. Bob to meet with Camelback. However, Fr. Bob informed the Council that due to Camelback being our current supplier, PPC is not responsible for contacting Camelback. That should be done through OLOL administration. Fr. Bob further suggested that Maria Dempsey, Joyce Sullivan, and one member of the website sub-committee meet with Camelback to get the information needed. The website sub-committee will continue working with Joyce to be prepared for the meeting with Camelback.

It was the general consensus of Fr. Bob and Council members that the quality of the website has improved greatly since this sub-committee began its work.

Lorraine reported to the Council that OLOL is not currently using email as a way of contacting parishioners. The email addresses included on parishioner registration forms are not being entered into the church computer. Lorraine had spoken with Maria Dempsey, Safe Environment Officer, who felt that email should not be entered on the computer for safety reasons. Fr. Bob reported that we have concrete instances when emails have been inappropriately used. Although we do have firewalls in our computer system, there is concern about the privacy of our parishioners. It was suggested by a Council member that we

ask parishioners' permission to use email addresses when the parish census and directory are done.

### Hospitality

Tony Acuna, liaison to Margaret Cook, received an email from Margaret in which she revealed that all 16 parishioners who had volunteered to assist with Hospitality have now agreed to be members of the Hospitality Ministry. As of this meeting, we do not know if Margaret gained any more volunteers after a request was placed in the bulletin. Beginning in January, the newly formed Hospitality Ministry will assume the duties of Hospitality Sunday unless there is an unforeseen problem. At such time, the organizations previously responsible for hospitality will no longer have that duty. The exception will be the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, who will continue to serve.

### Time and Talent Follow-Up

No Council member reported any problems from their follow-up discussions with their respective ministries. Bob Guzik suggested that Council members continue to follow-up with these ministries.

At this point, Fr. Bob brought up that the Council needs to begin planning for the Ministry Meeting. There will be fewer attendees this year due to several ministries falling under one umbrella of responsibility.

A sub-committee was formed: Bob Guzik, Norm Brennecke, and Karen Stonecipher. This year's Ministry Meeting will not deal with budget items, as that is the Finance Council's responsibility. The Ministry Meeting was set for March 1, 2008, from 9:00-11:30 with lunch following. The sub-committee will report back to the Council at the December meeting.

### Kitchen Ventilation

Lorraine Chambers reported that she had contacted David Rossato about this issue. David has suggested that to get more air into the cooking area of the kitchen, a 10" supply line needs to be linked from the main kitchen area. The estimated cost of this is \$450. This matter will now be turned over to the Finance Council.

### Ants

Lorraine Chambers reports that David Rossato feels the ant extermination is working at the moment. David exterminates on a scheduled basis, as well as, extra applications as needed.

A discussion about the grotto ensued. As this area needs some work and repair, Lorraine reported that contractors have been called. Fr. Bob reported that the

statue of the Blessed Virgin Mother will be moved to the area that houses the markers for unborn children. The Council agreed that this is a perfect spot for this statue.

#### Waiting Space for Parents

The St. Anne Room is available during Faith Formation for parents to sit during the hour of Faith Formation classes. These parents may also wait in the sanctuary, the chapel, or outside. Fr. Bob said that he would love to have picnic tables and benches available outside so that parents could more comfortably wait outside for their children on nice weather days.

Karen Stonecipher, liaison to Children's Faith Formation, will follow-up with Beth Wright about this topic. Karen also reported that a parent had questioned what the safe environment issue is with parents waiting in the Holy Family Center during Faith Formation classes. Fr. Bob gave an example of one safe environment issue that arises when the Holy Family Center is made available during Faith Formation classes. Catechists are not allowed to enter the restroom with a child, nor can a child be left alone while a bathroom is being checked; therefore, the Holy Family Center cannot be accessible to those not attending Faith Formation.

#### Unattended Children Problems

Fr. Bob reported that it seems that the announcement being made before Mass regarding unattended children has lessened the number of these children.

Karen Stonecipher brought up a parishioner's concern that some of our ushers are not Safe Environment Trained. Fr. Bob responded that all ushers are required to be Safe Environment cleared. All new ushers beginning in March 2007 were required to attend a Safe Environment certification. Those who were ushers previous to this date are required to attend this certification also.

The speculation continues about whether the children from the Spanish speaking community prefer to attend Mass in English. A council member, who attends the 12:15 Mass, believes the children do prefer English.

#### Comments by Fr. Bob

Fr. Bob gave out invitations sent by Kelly Colbert, Youth Minister, to the Intergenerational Dinner the Junior High Youth Program is sponsoring. Discussion followed as to what this Intergenerational Dinner is. Fr. Bob explained that it has been a tradition at OLOL to give the youth a time to sit down and interact with the elders of the parish. Some council members expressed concern that the invitation was too vague, not giving parishioners a clear indication of whom was invited. Fr. Bob said that it is a tradition that may need to be looked at further due to the growth of the parish.

Father Bob reported the statistics on Mass attendance following the change of Faith Formation to weekdays only. He looked at the increase or decrease of Mass attendees for each Mass for the months of September and October. The following was reported:

	<b>Mass Time</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>Increase/Decrease</b>
<b>September</b>	5:00	1623	1666	Increase of 43 or 3%
	8:00	1905	1558	Decrease of 347 or 19%
	10:30	3657	3155	Decrease of 502 or 14%
	12:15	3172	2721	Decrease of 451 or 15%
<b>October</b>	5:00	1289	1330	Increase of 49 or 4%
	8:00	1523	1318	Decrease of 205 or 14%
	10:30	2779	2438	Decrease of 341 or 13%
	12:15	2721	2109	Decrease of 612 or 23%

These statistics show an overall 14% decrease in mass attendance for both September and October from 2006 to 2007. The biggest decrease has been at the 12:15 Spanish mass. Fr. Bob relays that some possible reasons contributing to this decline include: 1) Wylie and Rowlett are both offering more Masses in Spanish; 2) a new church has been constructed in McKinney; and 3) due to immigration laws and issues, many Hispanic Catholics are presently not in public view.

Interestingly, OLOL has experienced a 4% increase in income within the same time frame under consideration. Speculation by one council member is that those who left may have already been disgruntled and not contributing to the church. The parishioners left may be experiencing more harmony, thus, contributing more.

Fr. Bob indicated that more stringent requirements may be needed for Faith Formation attendance. Some parishes already require evidence of church membership and a certain level of contribution. Fr. Bob shared that some families are registering in our parish just to attend our Faith Formation program.

Fr. Bob also relayed that Bishop Ferrell has sent out a letter saying priests can't set a fee for performing weddings, funerals, etc. Fr. Bob only receives a contribution for his services for weddings about half the time. There is a church fee for weddings which consists of \$125 for utilities and a \$125 deposit which is returned provided the church is left in good condition.

A PPC member raised the question of whether OLOL is still accepting registration for Faith Formation. Fr. Bob believes that registration is closed. A council member asked could a family moving into our parish still register for the Home Study program. Fr. Bob wasn't positive on the Faith Formation Office's position on this issue. He did say that sacrament classes are closed due to having already held two of the four Sacramental Preparation Mini Sessions, mandatory for children making their First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

#### Concerns of Parishioners

Mike Humphrey who has previously collected the parishioners' food donations brought to the church and delivered to appropriate places, is asking to be relieved of this responsibility. Mike no longer has the time necessary to be responsible for this worthy cause. Mike has sought alternative sources but felt he should seek the help of the Parish Pastoral Council. Council members inquired if the Knights, St. Vincent de Paul Society, or the youth could be available to provide this service. Fr. Bob said that St. Vincent de Paul doesn't actually deliver food, but assesses the needs of families. The Knights of Columbus have, in the past, only collected and delivered food for their special food drives at Christmas and Thanksgiving and perhaps during the summer. The youth group was asked but had to decline due to lack of time.

Suggestions by council members included: 1) Placing a request in the bulletin for help with the pickup and delivery of food items, 2) forming a ministry which would need a coordinator, and 3) possibly asking the Cub Scouts from our church. Fr. Bob suggested perhaps Mike could contact Todd White, the liaison for the Cub Scouts.

Another parishioner concern was the displeasure with some of the music at 10:30 Mass. A council member reported that this parishioner enjoys greatly the music at 5:00 Mass and was interested in why the same song selections are not sung at 10:30 Mass. Fr. Bob explained that due to the organ being used during 10:30 mass, some of the 5:00 songs are not possible. Some council members were in agreement with this parishioner's complaints and feel the 5:00 mass music enhances the Mass nicely, as well as, serves to spiritually uplift parishioners.

Fr. Bob reported that the Scola will be present at the Sunday Masses for Christ the King.

#### PPC/FC Hospitality Schedule for September

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there is no hospitality schedule for the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils.

#### Snacks/Closing Prayer for October PPC Meeting

Norm Brennecke is responsible for snacks at our November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dan Muckensturm will provide the closing prayer.

### November Agenda Items

Agenda items for the upcoming December meeting were decided.

- Subcommittee Reports
  - New Membership
  - Space
  - Access/Parking
  - Parish Website
  - Ministry Meeting
- Hospitality
- Waiting Space for Parents
- Food Baskets
- Building January Agenda
  - Comments by Father Bob
  - Report Concerns of Parishioners
  - PPC/FC Hospitality Schedule for January
  - January Agenda Items/December Bulletin Notes

### November Bulletin Notes

Items for November Bulletin Notes were suggested:

- Agenda for December meeting

The meeting was closed with a prayer read by Dan Muckensturm.