

ST. JOHN CHURCH PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

January 14, 2008

ATTENDEES: Uchenna Iloeje (Chairperson); Tom Butler (Vice Chairperson); Joanne Francis; Tony Gumkowski; Barbara O'Keefe; Joanne Golden; Mike Holcomb; Susan Sousa; Jeanne Crandall; Ralph Dawkins; LG Kelsey; Rosemary Matus; Jean Ryan; Fr. Mitchell Sawicki

REGRETS: Fr. Raymond Borkowski; Melissa Lawler; Dan Ryan;

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Called in faith in Baptism, we, the members of the Parish family of St. John, Cromwell, unite in the celebration of the liturgy.

In joyful spirit, we give witness to our Roman Catholic faith through Perpetual Eucharist Adoration and through sharing in Christ's mission by proclaiming His word, building His community, and serving His people.

By working together we strive to make the presence and love of Jesus Christ known and felt by all.

GENERAL

1. Meeting started at 7:00pm with opening prayer led by Fr. Mitchell
2. Announcements
 - 2.1 Bishop Daniel Hart passed away. The 9:30 mass on Sunday January 20, 2008, will be celebrated for the intention of him.
 - 2.2 Frank Runyeon's services have been secured for March 14, 2008. The play to be performed is "Afraid".
 - 2.3 The Knights of Columbus will be foregoing the annual summer steak night and will coordinate the second annual St. John's summer picnic. A date for the picnic has not been selected.
3. Approve minutes of last meeting: Motion moved by Tom Butler to accept minutes from the November 26, 2007 meeting and seconded by LG Kelsey. Minutes approved.
4. Ministry Liaison Updates:
 - 4.1. Traditional choir: The choir is in desperate need of new members. It is unclear how to reach individuals to join the choir.
 - 4.2. Life Teen: A total of 12 individuals will be going to Australia for World Youth Day in July 2008.
 - 4.3. Haven Health: Eucharistic Ministers will be visiting the Rehabilitation Center once a month rather than twice a month.
 - 4.4. CCD: Teachers in 5th and 7th grade are still needed.
 - 4.5. Ushers: LG Kelsey and Dick Czapiga will be creating a hand guide to help improve the ministry and the consistency of performance.
 - 4.6. Adoration: The 12:00am to 6:00am is getting more difficult to fill and there has been a noticeable increase in gaps of adoration.
 - 4.7. Welcoming Committee: Though the meeting is mandatory, they are not well attended by the new parishioners. Joanne Golden suggested having the meeting following mass. Members thought this was an excellent idea.
 - 4.8. Flowers: An additional helper has come forward.
 - 4.9. Auction: The auction date conflicts with a dinner at Mercy High School and a function of the Cromwell Junior Women's Club. The first meeting was last week and the second meeting follows in two weeks. This second meeting will identify where there is help needed. There are some new people who have come forward to help this year. There are a number of people who have been involved in the auction from when it first started. Some of these people would like to still be involved but not chair the sub committees.
 - 4.10. Lectors: We have a few new lectors.

- 4.11. Outreach program: It is still in discussion on how to coordinate the pasta and sauce donations to be brought up to the Alter during masses.
- 4.12. Contemporary Choir: Laurie Wise will be stepping down from the position of Choir Director as of May 11, 2008. She was hoping for a smooth transition for a new director but no one has stepped forward to replace her. Laurie will continue to cantor.
- 4.13. Coat Drive: 85 coats were collected but have not been picked up by Mercy Housing Shelter. They have been contacted repeatedly but we are still waiting.
5. Old Business:
 - 5.1 Second collection for fuel and coats: Eucumenical Service collection: Approximately \$800 was collected and would be used for fuel assistance to parishioners. The money would be divided among the churches that participated in the service. Rosemary Matus asked if we would be doing another collection this year for fuel assistance? Fr. Mitchell responded that if there is a need, we can help those in need to find additional resources for help.
 - 5.2 Teen Replacement and Recruitment: There is no point in filling the position for this year. To help with recruitment, Jean Ryan suggested that the teens may feel intimidated to join the council on their own and perhaps we should consider having two teens. This would require a change in the by-laws but all agreed that this suggestion could help with recruiting. Tom Butler also agreed that he could speak to the confirmation class and anyone that is interested may be allowed to attend a meeting.
6. Parish Pastoral Council donation for auction: All agreed to give \$20 to Rosemary Matus for a donation to purchase an item to donate to the church auction.
7. New Business:
 - 7.1 We will be having our annual Lenten spiritual revival event this year. This year will be Frank Runyeon. The core group coordinating this event is Dottie King, Jean Ryan, Jackie Haywood, Laurie Kaczmarczyk, and Uchenna Iloeje. Tony and Carol Scierka will be in charge of lights and Tim Jacobs is in charge of music. Suggestions for future annual Lenten spiritual revival event: Joanne Golden recommended Fr. John Powers of Holy Family Retreat. Other members agreed that they had heard positive recommendations for him. He would be someone who would be needed to contact well in advance. Members were encouraged to send in other recommendations to the Chairperson for consideration for future years.
 - 7.2 Nominating committee for new Parish Pastoral Council members: We need to replace 7 people for next year. Everyone is to start thinking of suggestions.
- 8 Teen Report: n/a
- 9 Parochial Vicar Report: Jubilee celebration has ended. The mass for Lady of Guadalupe was surprisingly attended by a nice crowd despite bad weather. Christmas masses were also well attended. First Reconciliation went smoothly. Fr. Mitchell commented that the success to reaching the children is through reaching the parents to bring the children to mass regularly. Lastly, St John will not be participating in the pulpit exchange. This is due to Fr. Raymond being away and new ministers at the participating churches.
- 10 Pastor's Report: combined in Parochial Vicar Report
- 11 Closing Prayer: The closing prayer and special intentions led by chairperson