

MEETING MINUTES
St. John Fisher Parish Council (PC)
May 20, 2007

Agenda:

1. Opening

- Joe Pauwels opened the meeting and introduced Nancy Mason Bordley for the opening prayer.
- The first hour of the meeting was attended by Commission and Ministry leaders of the Parish to discuss the strategies developed over the past two months as part of the Pastoral Planning Process.
 - Joe Pauwels outlined the importance of our volunteers and these efforts to expand our volunteer base.
 - Fr. Jerry thanked the attendees for their contributions and pointed out how the strategies created can be the basis for improving our parish.
 - Lew Elbert talked about the commitments the Parish Council is willing to make to support ministry efforts, i.e. liaison work, new member welcome, and a “Ministry Fair” if appropriate.
 - Table discussions focused on new ideas that can support each ministry and “cross-fertilize” across ministries. Highlights:
 - Work towards narrowing the stated mission of ministries to more easily communicate them;
 - Evangelization will proceed to create an ongoing process to publicize volunteer opportunities;
 - Consider how we can do a better job of “marketing” volunteer opportunities;
 - Explore “single task” volunteer involvement as a means of exposing the less active to ministry work.
 - In closing, it was reiterated that each ministry is being asked to work its plan (towards increased involvement and engagement of the 20-30% not yet active) without any specific objectives, timetables, or measurable results being imposed -- other than those they are assuming for themselves.

2. Parish Council Session

- Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as written
- Pastoral Planning Process feedback
 - Members were generally pleased with “spirit” of the meeting;
 - Liaisons are committed to supporting the Commissions in this year’s focus;
 - Results of today’s meeting will need to be replayed as we start back in the fall and follow through the year.
- Joe reviewed the 2007-2008 budget and related issues:
 - The budget calls for significant (and “painful”) spending reductions in five key areas;
 - The budget is aligned with current levels of giving and comprehends anticipated increases in fixed costs;
 - The interaction with the GISC Campaign (which continues to gain momentum) is acknowledged; A pastoral letter from the Pastoral Team to the Parish Family outlining the situation is in process; It might be appropriate for a communication from the Council in the fall.
 - All things considered, we are in “relatively good shape” but will need to monitor the status going forward.
- Fr. Jerry reviewed the finalized plan to reorganize the structure and meeting schedule of the Pastoral Team
 - We will have at least 4 opportunities to meet with the PT and/or ministries next year;
 - There will be a “point person” named to coordinate this process.
- Ministry Interest Survey
 - The voluntary submission period will conclude the weekend of June 3rd.
 - Depending on the volume of responses, at that time we may need to include a sign-up during friendly time.
- Electronic giving: Finance is in favor, negotiations are ongoing;
- Parish Council Succession
 - The Youth Group position as well as two positions for women will need to be filled;
 - **Nominations are due by Friday, May 25th so that selections can occur the weekend of May 26-27.**

5. Conclusion

- Lew Elbert closed the meeting with assignments for the next meeting scheduled for June 3rd.
- Members absent: Smith, Brisbois, Reynolds, and LaChance (all excused)

Respectfully submitted,
Lew Elbert