

Meeting Minutes
St. John Fisher Parish Council (PC)
January 6, 2008

1. Opening

- Following the opening prayer led by Sheran Tioran, Lew Elbert reviewed today's agenda and the minutes from the last meeting. One update to the previous meeting minutes is that the Parish is now incorporated and Lew, as the PC Chair, is the representative to the Board of Directors.

2. Focus Item for Discernment:

- PC Membership Rotation - The Parish Council will continue to consist of 12 at-large members, plus the Youth Group and Holy Family School Representatives. Each of the at-large representatives will have a three-year term, with four members "rotating off" the Council each year.
For the coming year, Lew, Renee Smith and Paul Molnar will rotate off the Council, as will Cecilia Karr, the Holy Family Representative. All others (except the Youth Group representative, Allison Pittel) will remain on the Council in order to help maintain the balance of "new" and experienced members.
The PC will soon require candidates for two male and one female at-large positions, as well as a new Youth Group Member. The candidate nomination form will be presented at the February meeting.
- Parish Pastoral Assembly (PPA) – The process to solicit participants is now underway, with a flyer in the bulletin. It will take place during lent, with a different discussion topic each week. The primary purpose of the PPA will be the personal/spiritual growth of each participant. The number of participants will be tracked as a way of measuring parishioner involvement.

3. Upcoming Items

- The PC will support the Young Adult Retreat at Subiaco on January 26 by preparing dinner. All members are asked to contribute \$10 to help pay for the meal.
- Lew will prepare the "before-Mass" welcoming schedule for the balance of the year. He will try to take into account individual preferences for Mass time.
- PC members have agreed to serve the snack after the Confirmation Mass on Thursday evening, February 7. All are invited to participate.
- An update on the SJF Pastoral Care activities will be an item for discernment at the next PC meeting.

4. Updates

- Issue with Olga's Restaurant – Leaflets from Olga's were handed out at church after Mass one weekend. Fr. Jerry met with their management and asked that they not hand out flyers on church property or put flyers on vehicles in our parking lot. The Olga staff agreed to this.

Note: At this point, Bishop Flores joined the meeting. Following introductions, our meeting process was explained and then we went back to the agenda topics.

- Progress on Volunteer Initiatives - Joe Pauwels reviewed two charts that depict how the parish is doing at increasing “meaningful engagement of the faith family.” The first chart shows that when reported by Ministry, the total number of families involved has increased by 12.9% (from 388 to 438). The second slide reveals that last summer’s SOS activity resulted in 28.9% “new” volunteers, compared to 2005 and 2006. It can be concluded from this data that our effort to increase volunteerism is working!
- Revenue Strategy – Joe also reviewed the latest revenue enhancement initiatives and showed a chart that depicts collection performance to budget. The initiatives include: reporting of “other” collection items in the bulletin, including an envelop in the monthly envelop packets for contributions to the building campaign, continuing to publish, as clearly as possible, parish financial status, and working toward introducing electronic giving in the second quarter of the year. The chart shows that the parish is \$9,982 favorable to the seasonally adjusted budget.
- Q & A With Bishop Flores – the following summarizes most of the Bishop’s comments:
 - Very impressed with the cross-section of PC members, including a Youth Group member
 - Asks that we plan for the future of the parish; plan the next 5 years at least
 - When visiting a parish, Bishop Flores looks for cohesiveness, minimal fragmentation between groups, diversity of people and of thought. Members must appreciate each other’s point of view and focus area. Thus far, he sees this at SJF.
 - Our Vicariate is a “microcosm” of the Archdiocese – very diverse, especially economically.
 - The Vicariate process seems to work well – good interaction, not “myopic.”
- Alison Pittel reported on the very successful Youth Retreat conducted since our last meeting, and the longer-term benefits our Parish enjoys as a result of the continuity of these events with other related activities.
- Dairdre McGlothlin reported on the recent New Member Welcoming. The presentation was well received and the involvement of the Parish Council is working very well. We will need to review the rotation of members at the next meeting.

Future Discernment Issues:

- Pastoral Care planning
- Five year planning (as suggested by Bishop Flores)

Upcoming Event: Holy Family Open House on 2/2/08

Next Meeting: February 17th beginning at 11:30 AM.
Lunch – Lew Elbert; Prayers – Cecilia Karr

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Pauwels