

Meeting Minutes
St. John Fisher Parish Council
Sept. 20, 2009

Members present:

Fr. Jerry	Dairdre McGlothlin
Evan Barlage	Ann Moran
Jerry Bishop	Kirsti Reeve
Laura Borroni-Bird	Greg Schultz
Scott Kehrer	MaryAnn Weller

Also in attendance: Paul Borucki and Tom Czarnecki

Prior to the official opening of the meeting, Fr. Jerry passed out *Year of Renewal (YOR)* materials to the council members. The purpose was to make the parish leadership aware of the details and content of the booklet to be used at the small group gatherings and the brochure which was sent to the home of each parishioner.

1. Opening

Following a snack and socializing, Dairdre McGlothlin called the meeting to order. The opening prayer was led by Laura Borroni-Bird. Laura used the inspirational *YOR Prayer*.

Dairdre asked for additions and/or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting (August 16, 2009). The minutes were approved as written. Dairdre gave a brief introduction to the agenda.

Evan Barlage, representative of the St. John Fisher Youth Group, was introduced to the council.

2. Focus Items for Discernment

a. Discussion of parish finances

Paul Borucki and Tom Czarnecki discussed parish finances so that the council members may understand the budget in order to explain it and dispel misconceptions to parishioners.

Paul provided the St. John Fisher Chapel Operating Results (handout). PC was advised that in our last fiscal year (2008-2009) despite efforts to control expenses, Total Operating Expenses exceeded our Offertory Income mainly due to building maintenance, snow removal and interest expense on the Chapel renovation. For the current fiscal year, (2009-2010), due to the Michigan economy, the Offertory revenue budget was cut 5% impacting staff and ministry programs with no increases for the third year in a row. There is also concern for having funds to move forward with major projects like the spine of the chapel roof, heating and cooling issues, and paving the parking lot. We continue to communicate our financial status to the SJF community and look forward to an improvement all around.

Tom reported on the Growing in Spirit and Commitment Development Campaign (GSCDC) which allowed us to fund renovation of the lighting in the worship space and pay three years of our Catholic Services Appeal Commitments. Thanks to all who supported the Campaign! We borrowed \$160,000 from the Archdiocese of Detroit to complete the worship space project and will be paying the loan back over the next three years. The new GSCDC is in

full swing as we once again look to our parishioners for prayers, pledges or sharing of time and talent.

b. *Year of Renewal*

Fr. Jerry discussed the *YOR* with the council. He stated that it is designed to engage the entire SJF community. As an example, Fr. Jerry explained that the scripture reflections on the weekend readings will focus on each *YOR* topic. Fr. Jerry anticipates the gathering of about 20 small groups (10 people per group). He said that the *YOR* theme is woven into all aspects of our community including the religious education programs.

Comments included Julie Kubicki expressing that she felt it was a good idea to fill out the small group sign-up forms in church.

c. October meeting focus

Dairdre informed the council that the October meeting includes all parish leadership. She suggested that this year we attend the Pontiac Area Vicariate Assembly in lieu of our scheduled meeting. The topic of the Assembly will be "Called and Gifted" by Sherry Weddell. It will occur on Monday, October 26, 2009, from 6:30 to 9:00 PM, at St. Andrew Parish Activities Building (1400 Inglewood, Rochester, MI 48307).

Parish council will not meet on October 18.

3. Updates

a. New member welcoming

Jerry Bishop reported that there was a large group of new members at the September New Parishioner Welcoming. Jerry said that attending this was a good experience and a good way to meet new members.

Scott Kehrer asked for pointers for welcomers before Mass. Fr. Jerry suggested that one person take the east door and one person take the west door. He also said that the best thing to do is just to say "Welcome."

Julie Kubicki speculated that people may be wary of welcomers because they are afraid they will be asked to do something.

b. PAV Hispanic gathering

Fr. Jerry provided details of the Hispanic gathering which was held to welcome Hispanics and make them feel at home in our parishes. Over 300 people attended including Bishop Flores.

4. Upcoming items

PC meetings:

Oct. 26	PAV Assembly (6:30 to 9:00 PM, at St. Andrew Parish Activities Building)
Nov. 15	Business meeting
Dec. 6	Christmas social

5. Dismissal

Dairdre dismissed the meeting.

Laura Borrini-Bird led the closing prayer.