

St. Benedict Church ~ Pastoral Council Minutes

November 4, 2010 ~ 7:40pm

Members present: Fr. Philip Rodgers, Chair: Paul Waterman, Vice Chair: Karen Keenan, Tom Henefer, Tom Dobson, Diane Roulston, Sylvia Firth, Matt Martini, Ellie Albright, Andrew Angstadt and Valerie Christo.

Excused: David Jones and Tom Cioffi.

Opening Prayer – Tom Henefer

Faith Sharing – No discussion.

Minutes from September 2, 2010 reviewed. No additions or corrections were noted. Paul asked for approval. Sylvia Firth motioned for approval, seconded by Matt Martini, all in favor.

Mission Statement read by Tom Henefer.

Ministry Reports

Religious Education

Children's Education – Valerie reported

- 53 students Confirmed on October 19 by Bishop Edward Cullen. Fr. Phil commented the students were very well prepared.
- 210 students registered in the program: pre-school to 8th grade. Size of classes change yearly.
- Catechesis workshop on discipline is being offered.
- Projects: 1st & 6th graders Christmas Caroling at local retirement village and all classes participating in Holy Childhood Missions

Parish Outreach – Ellie Albright reported:

Activities of the parish organizations.

- St. Vincent de Paul – October annual food drive. Soup Kitchen November 6 & 7th. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for the needy.
- Respect Life – Election voting information distributed the Sunday before the election. Pro-Life Bible study resumes Thursday evenings for next 3 weeks. Project for December: Giving Tree for Mary's Shelter & Lifeline. January project: Life Ad in Reading Eagle and March for Life in Washington DC.
- Youth Group – Participated in parish Halloween party. Working on tentative plans for next summer's teenage mission trip. Sacred Heart Devotion on First Fridays. Project: Angel Tree for Advent.
- Bereavement – Members will attend parish funerals to help support the families. Support Group Sessions for the fall held on Wednesday evenings September 29 –November 3.
- Prime Timers – Events: Dinner & show at Dutch Apple Theater, November 4th. Christmas Bazaar November 6 & 7th, election of officers November 16th, Christmas luncheon at Reading County Club December 7th.
- Women's Club – Events: Bake/Book/Bobble Sale September 25 & 26th, Christmas Bazaar, Cookie Sale December 10 & 11th, planning holiday dinner for January 2011. Serving refreshments after Confirmation and Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service.
- Vocations – Events: National Priesthood Sunday, October 31st, create a card and letters for retired priests December 4 & 5th. Vocation Chalice will be passed through the PREP classes. "Seminarian Focus" featuring a different seminarian in the diocese every three weeks.
- Knights of Columbus – Events: Soccer Challenge – September 19th, planning AppleFest parish social and Bell Tower Fundraiser for November 13th.

- Friendly Visitors – Seven parishioners have volunteered to reach out to others in need, waiting to formulate a list of people to visit.
- Stay at Home Mother's – Events: Jewelry Party for fundraiser October 28th, provide food and staff the kitchen for Christmas Bazaar, selling Bon-Ton booklets as a fundraiser.
- Stewards of Creation – Events: continue to recycling paper at our location is 24/7; recycle ink cartridges, cell phone collection December and January.
- Landings – Fall session will be completed November 14th with a pot luck get-together, 7 people attended, next session will be January/February 2011. Common Heart committee scheduled two planning meetings for the event held at Bernadine Conference Center, Alvernia on February 9th topic: Sacred Scriptures with presenters: Father Phil, Rabbi Michelson, and an Islamic Leader (TBD).
- Orientation Program – No report.
- Gardens – Campus clean-up was October 23rd and gardens being winterized.
- Cursillo – Coleen Bleile is the new parish representative. Three men and two women made their Cursillo Weekend.
- Book Club – presently reading two suggested books.

Areas discussed at presidents meeting

- Working on a calendar of all major parish events to be placed on our website.
- All meetings/events are to be scheduled through the parish office.
- Organization heads are aware of the 4 goals that the pastoral council is working on for this year.
- Stewardship committee volunteered to be part of the Orientation Committee possibly taking over the orientation meetings for new parishioners.

Music Ministry

Andrew reported

- Children's Choir – is on hold till further notice.
- Bell choir – is up and running.
- Guitar Group - has started up again and will continue every 2nd and 4th Sundays
- Pressimone Family – will only be doing special masses. They are scheduled for Christmas Eve.
- Adult Choir – very dedicated. Schedule to sing at the Adult Penance Service.
- Cantors – 2 new cantors: Treesa Schools and Nicole Angstadt.
- 40 Hours Devotion – increase attendance from last year. Divine Mercy Chaplet was added.
- Advent Vespers – cancelled for this year.
- Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service – November 24 at 7pm. Adult Choir and Bell Choir.
- New Liturgy – we will start using the new liturgy first Sunday in Advent 2011.
- Taize Prayer Service – possibly scheduled in January or February.

Finance

Fr. Phil reported

- Report from the Summer Festival was distributed and discussed.
- Projects: Heat pump for rectory – financial donations covered the cost. Parking lot maintenance sealing cracks. Windows in daily Mass chapel need to be replaced, estimates received.
- Bell Tower unveiling of the architects plan at the AppleFest dinner.
- Tuition assistance – 5 families were assisted with tuition aide totally \$7,250.00.
- Reporting finances to the parish – quarterly report will be completed soon. Stewardship Sunday of Finances will be the weekend of March 6th. Comparing our monthly stewardship this year to last year our income is up \$3,000 per month.
- Encourage donations from estate/wills to support the work of St. Benedicts.

Hands of Truth

Fr. Phil reported for Adrian

- Projects are continuing.
- Every First Friday the Youth Group is working on Pro-Life movement with Friday night and Saturday morning prayer service.

RCIA

Fr. Phil reported:

Fr. shared the letters that the RCIA candidates wrote as to why they wanted to become Catholic. Fr. Phil suggested the council members respond to the candidates with encouragement on their faith journey. Valerie suggested the Confirmation class could respond to one of the letters. Council members volunteered to take a letter and respond to each candidate. Response letters are to be returned to Fr. Phil by November 20th.

PASTORAL PLANNING –

Paul distributed the 2010 Pastoral Plan for final review. The Pastoral Plan was to be reviewed and revised by council for final approval. The following goal updates were given by each subcommittee.

Goal 1 – Revitalize Family Life group. Reported by Matt Martini

A meeting was planned and published in the bulletin 2 families responded by email but were unable to attend the scheduled meeting.

Paul asked if Matt would like to change the date of the established committee since no committee has been formed. Matt said he would like to keep that objective since two families are interested in assisting, Matt will reschedule a meeting date.

Goal 2 - Re-establish Maintenance Committee. Reported by Paul Waterman

It was noted that the campus has a lot of buildings and grounds to take care of, and the idea is to pull together a functional group to take care of the maintenance of the grounds that needs to be done.

Create and organize a list of all the maintenance jobs that need to be done possibly called a “facility inventory” with completion by January 2011. Once jobs are listed develop instructions on what needs to be done, as in maintenance and repair and how often preventative maintenance needs to be done, with completion by March 2011.

Recruit a volunteer maintenance team that can take care of the jobs. Goal: Small jobs by one person, large jobs by a team. The council members are only establishing the committee not running it, council then would give ownership to the team.

Goal 3 - To Enhance Adult Religious Education Program. Sylvia reported:

Online Bible study is in progress. Bible study will be a prelude to the Advent Reflections program.

Working on Lent Retreat/Workshop two topics were presented for the Lenten talk's, council voted on “Immigration”. The Lenten event will be completed 2 weeks prior to Easter with a possibility of developing a Mission program.

Fr. Phil suggested forming an adult religious education committee with a coordinator, so it is an established committee - as in having set meetings scheduled, a leader, committee members etc...

Fr. Phil noted that the second and fourth objectives are the same, suggested take out the fourth objective. All members agreed.

Goal 4 - To Develop a Young Adult Outreach Program. Tom Henefer reported:

The date to get the committee started was found not feasible since we are already in November and December is a busy month. The team requested the end of December 2010 to get the goal started.

Feels that young parishioners need to get more involved with the parish in different ministries and possibly Fr. Phil, as the pastor, asking them to participate in different activities/ministries.

Fr. Phil suggested asking the young adults already involved in the parish to a social in January to see if any would be interested in helping to get others involved.

Basic objectives of the group: faith, life of the church, and going outside of the church for community service.

Fr. Phil asked if the team has talked to any other church about their young adult group. Tom stated they only talked to Mary Matunis, Assistant Director of Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the diocese.

The team requested by end of January 2011 as their goal to start a committee to promote the young adult group. Fr. Phil suggested to add a goal: To form a leadership to provide continuity to the program.

Review of Three & Five Year Goals

Three Year Goals

- Develop plan for Adult Mission Trip
- Explore Teen Life Programs
- Revitalize Parish Prayer Group
- Obtain input for parishioners on pastoral planning
- Review Parish's Master Plan

Five Year Goal

- Establish Capital Planning Committee

Motion to accept 2010 St. Benedict Pastoral Plan as revised. Diane Roulston motioned for approval, seconded by Tom Dobson. All in favor.

Summarize Action Plan

- Pastoral Plan to be presented to the parish in two ways: bulletin insert and council member's verbal presentation at each Mass weekend of November 13 & 14. Volunteers: Tom Dobson 5pm, Paul 8am, Diane Roulston 9:30 and Tom Henefer 11:15am.
- Welcome letter to RCIA candidates by November 20

Subcommittee Report:

- Hospitality/Greeters - Diane Roulston reported she will place a box in the gathering space for parishioners names who would like to volunteer as a greeter.

Induction of new council members by Fr. Phil.

Volunteers for next meeting: Thursday, January 6, 2011 @ 7:30pm

Prayer – Diane Roluston

Refreshments – Andrew Angstadt

Closing Prayer – Tom Henefer

Adjournment - motion Tom Henefer, seconded Sylvia, all in favor.

Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanie Hauck
Secretary