

Pastoral Council Minutes – March 8, 2011 - 7:00PM

In attendance: Fr. Jeff Meeuwsen, Lani Vandehey, James Herrera, Todd Schmit, John Krebsbach, Felipe Sayago, Rafael Manriquez, Helen Goff, Thuy-Nga Casey, Michelle Tunnell (Admin. Ass't./Recorder)

Absent: Rafael Anaya

Admin. Council Representative: None (Jesús Cornejo notified of absence via e-mail.)

Guest(s): None

Attachments: Ministry List (April 2008)

Meeting called to order at: 7:06 pm

1. Opening Reading and Reflection – Fr. Jeff
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (Ash Wednesday Gospel reading)

•Words/phrases that stood out to us:

--“*Reward*”- spoken 3x

--“*Inner room*”

--“*Repay you*”

--“*Do not let right your left hand know what your right (hand) is doing*” paralleled with the analogy that our Heavenly Father forgets/forgives our sins as far as the East is from the West.

--“*Close the door...*”

--“*Sees in secret/what is hidden*”—call to integrity

--“*Recompense from your Heavenly Father...*”

•What that means to us (comments from around the table):

--Our Heavenly Father knows what we’re doing in secret. Our hands are connected, so we wonder how we can disassociate them one from the other. But, God has both hands in control when He forgives our sins as far as the East is from the West!

--It takes the pressure off of performing. We’re judged by others who are watching us. It’s so nice to pray in your “inner room,” which is a learned practice. Your efforts don’t go for naught.

--“*Repay you*”: He realized he was doing things differently than what God wanted and changed his behavior as he grows closer to the Lord through Bible study. He realized God was repaying him already (first) before he helped somebody else.

--There’s a juxtaposition between doing things in secret vs. before others, because we’re also called to be *examples*.

--“*Reward*” may be implied as a negative thing because there’s a grander/greater one implied.

--He’s reminded of the “right hand/left hand” analogy as pertains to our offertory envelopes. Nobody really knows what’s in that (if empty or has money in it)—only God.

--There’s a delicate balance between performance/display and reverence/being *truly* pious. It’s really awkward when pledges are announced, such as in the Vietnamese church: are they serving as an example or “tooting their own horn?” Maybe it’s has to do more with the true intention of the heart. *What is our motivation?*

--Appearance: He struggles with it. It’s a temptation as an extrovert to go overboard. He also wants to be a good example and “look good” w/o showing off.

--Example of spouse fasting & being low key about it, telling people he/she would just eat some sweets “later on” when offered-- w/o bragging about fasting.

2. Approval of February Minutes: Todd

•**Minutes approved unanimously among those present as submitted.**

3. Admin Council Report - Fr. Jeff reported in lieu of Jesús Cornejo, who was absent (pre-arranged).

•Finances-We should be at about 58% for income & expenses; we’re 63.5% for offertory income. Utilities are at 48% of the budget.

•We’re looking into a Safety Grant, likely working with the blacktop and sidewalks—not set in stone yet.

•Paddle Bid-We’re still working on the kitchen remodel. This year, we had hot water for the whole duration of the Italian Dinner! We got a tankless heater last year as part of the Energy Audit. One previously recurring problem with it was that it was set at 120° and then dissipated, and Ed Stadelman worked with it to get it up to 140° to meet code.

•Alan VanDyke gave the maintenance report. We got the bid to take care of the roof on the Parish Hall, and Alan will make sure it’s treated after the professionals clean it.

We have several construction projects going on.

•Fund-Raising Committee: We were updated on the Italian Dinner, which has since happened. We’re waiting to see the end result.

•Budget Committee-will meet on 3/18 at 9am.

•Archbishop’s Capital Campaign-He showed the Archbishop’s DVD.

Explanation: This is a 5-year campaign for \$50 million. Our Parish has been asked to raise \$437,010 over 5 years. This goes to support the things of the Diocese: priest retirement, seminarian education, lay ecclesial ministers (incl. diaconate formation), and Catholic school assistance.

We have our Parish goal. Over the next month, we are called to compile a pledge team (led by Alex Doyle) and get volunteers to go ask parishioners to make a pledge. They identified how much to ask particular groups of people. All numbers are kept confidential. This amount averages about \$20 per person per week, so it is achievable. Fr. Jeff may ask the Pastoral Council mbrs. to pledge. He himself was asked to pledge \$10K over 5 years. ¼ of every \$1 given by the parish goes back to the parish for its needs: maintenance & pastoral ministry. Fr. Jeff outlined a list for them with some help.

If we go over our goal, we get 50% of the amount over the goal back. The Archbishop's Catholic Appeal (ACA) will be incorporated into the Archbishop's Capital Campaign this year, and it will be conducted on its own next year. [The ACA is the annual budget for the Archdiocese.]

There's been some confusion among our parishioners when the term "Capital Campaign" was mentioned (w/o being specific that it is the *Archbishop's* Campaign) who thought we were raising funds for something at our parish. We'll show the video soon at Mass. They don't have the video in Spanish; have an audio CD instead.

•**Action Item:** We have to set a calendar for the Campaign; Fr. Jeff and Alex will do that this Thursday (3/10).

•They worked on the Master Plan. It was approved with the date correction.

•**Action Item:** Todd will publish and distribute the final version and have Diana Wuertz post it on the Web.

4. Joint Council Meeting Review _____

- a. Revised Master Plan has been approved—See above under Admin. Council Report.

5. Action Items per Master Plan

- a. Parish Program Review - Todd forwarded the ministry list with tonight's agenda.

•To tackle program review, we made a list of the ministries in place back in 2008. At the top of the page, we also listed the criteria to consider a group a ministry. We were particularly interested if there was a contact person. [Our Web page does not fully list this information.]

•Some of them are no longer in place; others have been replaced. This is as far as we ever got with the list.

They also asked Sr. Juana if there were Spanish-speaking equivalent of the various English groups.

•*What do we want to do with this list? Do we want to maintain this yearly?*

•**Per our Master Plan, we are to have an annual review, and we need to know what we're reviewing yearly.**

•Comments:

--We don't currently have a transportation ministry. There had been a movement in support of one, but it's a difficult undertaking, and sometimes it only happened once or twice for the people who requested it. Many of the people are frail, so it's a liability for both the person providing the ride and the passenger needing it. We now direct them to Ride Connection through Tri-Met.

--Deborah coordinates the Youth Group and Young Adults, but there's also a Newman president at the Pacific University campus (Julie). They meet weekly at the university, i.e. for Bible Study & faith-sharing, plus they have dinner here once monthly. Deborah liaises with them.

--The Men's Group and Friday Bible study are dwindling. We have more organized things that are working well, but less actual Bible study than before. Some people may go to groups like BSF (Bible Study Fellowship), which is structured over 5 years (a set curriculum) and people participate in order to go through Bible in 5 years. They break down the larger group into groups of 10.

•We reviewed column A of the list to see if anything was missing:

--In several ministry areas, we're moving towards one committee that covers *both* the Anglo and Hispanic communities.

--We separated RE for children from RCIA and Adult Ed.

--Peace & Justice Committee: We don't have one by that name any more, but Family Bridge and SVdP could fall under that outreach--or would they be considered "affiliated ministries?"

--We need a column for the contact/responsible person.

--We haven't had a Parish Campout for going on 3 years. The problem is getting a place. Sites get full due to reservation practices where other parish groups block out several weeks at a time until they know which week they will actually need. The last campout was at the KOA campground, and it went fairly well.

--*Should we divide up the list between different members, or have everybody go through and fill in what they know for Todd to compile it?*

•**Action Items:** James is available to work on it. Rafael Manriquez and Fr. Jeff will help him with the Hispanic Groups. James will bring it to the April meeting. We need to designate if the ministry is organized under one umbrella committee or if there are separate Anglo and Hispanic groups.

We'll work to approve the list and determine if further action is needed. *Are we missing anything? Are there groups that need to be revived or phased out?* We need to keep inviting them to come give a review at the Council meeting once a year. This organizational process will help for our Ministry Sunday idea for Pentecost.

b. Whole Family Catechesis Discussion

•Heather and Fr. Jeff keep looking into it. So far, no proposals/resources seem to fit the parish—i.e. we would need a large volunteer base to implement it.

•Heather has been doing parent meetings for Sacramental Prep. It's been going better among the Hispanic Community. She gives them reflection questions to help them answer when their children ask about the faith. Two out of 15 Anglo parents in the Sunday am group did not like the weekly meetings—but that's still a positive ratio.

•Lani had forwarded a Web site connection for consideration. It had controversial aspects. It follows the liturgical year well but lacks deeper doctrinal content. It's a good idea, but all the pieces aren't solidly in order. There could be a better one out there. There were reflections vs. orthodoxy. We're not looking so much for a *program* [but could use one as a *vehicle* to engage the whole family if we find the *right* one] but to involve the entire family in ongoing catechesis. We might want people to explore the same theme at their own level and then come together to discuss it.

•*Could we do this for Confirmation prep as well as Sacramental prep?*
The parents aren't as involved in Confirmation prep. The teens work more with the sponsors at that level. Their sponsor is to be there for them as a witness. That process could bloom more, but the *focus* is different. Sponsors have 1 meeting at the Rite of Entrance. The sponsor is to interact with the confirmandi throughout the journey & we hope they continue after that. Some sponsors aren't even in the country. It's a different relationship than with the parents. The expectations are *specific* but *lesser* than that of the parents. We could use this as an opportunity for them to examine their faith. But, we can't "make" adults do things. We can only *encourage*. Our "Teach us to Pray" series had the usual faithful attendees, but not the group we had targeted—parents of RE children who need to know more about their faith. Then, again, grade school is the most malleable and reachable age during the formative years. But, some more resistant teens *do* turn around later in life.

•The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council discusses the very same issues. It may be the generation. Maybe their vision will change and move away from the

world as they mature. This is more of a problem with the English-speaking world.

- We can continue to strive to raise up active leadership and to be encouragers like Timothy. We should make a strong pull for Steubenville yearly; it's a powerful experience. The Hispanic groups give "diplomas"/certificates that motivate the people. They gain knowledge and are honored for it. People may be waiting to be called/invited. The Hispanic ministry encouraged people with lower literacy to come to Bible studies anyway, and their children assist them with the texts, so it's beneficial for both.

- Many people keep their faith observance private. We need to let it be known that we are a "family." We can keep offering and thinking of creative approaches.

- This discussion will be continued...**

6. Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Update – Fr Jeff

- They had a meeting Saturday, but he had to leave early to hear confession.

- Archbishop's report:

- Rite of Election during Lent.

- Holy Week: Chrism Mass 7pm at the cathedral in Portland on Monday, April 18th. Invite the parishes. Priests renew their vows at this time.

The Archbishop got his letter from the Pope regarding Lent: it's a time to prepare for baptism and renew baptismal commitment—through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

- Capital Campaign: It's taking place in the "northern" part of the Diocese (the pilot areas and "southern" Oregon--including Salem and Wilsonville--started first).

- Priest needs: 13 young men came for the January discernment retreat. The new vocation director will be Fr. John Henderson (not Fr. Kelly); they're still looking for someone to help Fr. Kelly. They are still short priests on the Oregon Coast. Lincoln City's priest was injured, and Waldport's priest retired early. Newport's priest has to cover Lincoln City, Waldport, and Siletz. St. Francis and Visitation will share a priest starting in July. They may need to combine 2 schools and 2 parishes.

- Ordinations: 3 permanent deacons (since Oct.); they will get 8 total--5 transitional deacons May 21 at the Cathedral. Arturo Romero from Veracruz is one of them and will intern next year w/Fr. Jeff. Fr. Jeff has worked with him already on his learning plan.

- James leaves 6/5 for Mexico. He's going to Guadalajara for an immersion program.

--May 21 is the diaconate ordination and June 4 is the priest ordination. There will be 4 new priests, which is not keeping up with attrition. Before, people went into the priesthood *after* a career, and now it's more people who are coming from abroad and are younger. Ordination numbers are going up; Mt. Angel is full.

--SSMO will celebrate its 125th anniversary all year.

--Holy Cross is celebrating its centennial. The Downtown Chapel was renamed to St. Andre Bessette. Other parishes celebrating 100 years: North Plains, Yamhill and others. 50 yrs.: St. Mark.

--Adult Confirmation: 13th of May at 7:30.

•**Executive Committee report:** focus on community faith in action, specifically the need to foster communion and the mission to foster the community of God. They answered questions in small groups: i.e. *What do I value about being a Catholic in particular?* (Answers included that it's safe, deep in doctrine, sense of community, diverse). *What do I value about being the Church?*

•**Action Item:** He had to leave at that point, but he'll forward the full minutes to the Council.

7. Archdiocesan Capital Campaign – Fr Jeff

This was already discussed earlier under agenda item #3, the Admin. Council report.

8. Welcoming Committee – follow up from last month

•After last month's meeting, Michelle made a list and mailing labels of people who had specifically *asked* for packets on their census card and then those who registered between the Oct. 31 census and few days after last meeting.

•*Did Helen and Thuy-Nga want to do home visits like they'd mentioned last month?* We have pens, magnets, our bulletin, and a few directories that we could put together for a temporary "packet."

•We will wait on discussing the idea of updating the pictorial directory until *after* the Archbishop's Capital Campaign this year and training the new deacon next year. Many directories are now done on the Web anyway.

•We had a welcoming potluck *last* year. We generally do this in the fall.

•**Action Items:** We could do a welcoming booth during Ministry Weekend on Pentecost Sunday.

We need to think of this as part of our ministry review.

We could form a committee from a leader in this Council, brainstorm, and bring a proposal back to the Council. They can talk to former Welcoming Committee members: Lily Ann Hamerl and Audrey Alsdorf.

•In the meantime, people are still expecting something to officially welcome them. Perhaps we should send a letter. We can ask a volunteer to work on letters. We still need to form a committee on ways to be more welcoming. Helen G. will

talk with Lily Ann and connect with Thuy-Nga. They'll bring back a list of options of how to welcome them. Thuy-Nga will ask St. Matthew's what their practice is as well.

9. Meeting Dates & Times

- a. May Vicariate Meeting – May 18th
- b. Admin Council Rep – Who is going? => **Thuy-Nga**
She will be absent for our next Pastoral Council meeting, however, so she won't be able to report back personally.

10. Other items for the good of the order:

Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday: 8am English and 7pm bilingual Masses. Fr. Jeff will only give out ashes at Mass.

•Think about people who would be good on the Pastoral Council next year. We'll do nominations in May and draw at the June meeting. Todd's term will expire at the end of June.

11. Closing Prayer – night prayer

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at: 8:59pm

Admin Council Attendance 2009-11 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 pm

July 20, 2010	Tweena
NEW DATE: August 3, 2010	None
September 21, 2010	Todd
October 19, 2010	Felipe
November 16, 2010	John
December 21, 2010	Rafael A—Rafael M went in his place.
January 18, 2011	Helen
February 15, 2011	Rafael M—Rafael Anaya due to 12/21.
March 15, 2011	Tweena
April 19, 2011	Todd
May 17, 2011	Felipe
June 21, 2011	John

Pastoral Council Members & Terms of Service

Date Began Service	Council Member Name	Term Expires
9/2005	Todd Schmit Todd.Schmit@arrisi.com (503) 539-1304	'11
7/2006	Tweena Casey tweena@gmail.com 503-329-2237	'12
5/2009	Felipe Sayago no eml; 503-357-7699	'12
7/2010	Rafael Anaya anaya91377@hotmail.com 503-330-2266	'13
7/2010	Helen Goff pelicanwatcher@hotmail.com 503-359-5058	'13
7/2010	John Krebsbach dr.john@groveweb.net 503-357-5390	'13
7/2010	Rafael Manriquez: rafael.manriquez86@yahoo.com 503-442-5137	'13