

Saint John the Evangelist
Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2006

Present:

Father Tom	Sister Evelyn	John Calcio
Cynthia Crino	Rick Kinney	Ann O'Hearn
Jane Leonard	Connor Green	Julie Joyce
Peg Creonte	Kathi Aldridge	Ed McCourt

I Opening Prayer and Reflection

II Old Business

April minutes accepted as corrected

III Guest Presenters

Dan Kinslea representing the Service Commission gave an overview of the functions of the 12 member body. The Service Commission organizes outreach programs in liturgical, community building, education and formation, outreach, and family life ministries. It meets formally four times annually with much work done by sub-groups and online. The Service Commission booklet is frequently updated and is available to anyone interested in assisting the various ministries. In November, ministry month, the bulletin will highlight one of the five ministries.

The works of the ministries are varied. Some include the "One Family Program" at Saint Mary's Women and Children's Center, the coordination of Lenten programs, assistance to a Louisiana parish ravaged by Katrina, and S.O.M.E. (So others may eat). Throughout all that the Service Commission accomplishes is Sister Evelyn. It was noted that she is central to its mission and works.

The question was raised if this vehicle is the most effective to support the numerous ministries. It has been difficult to find coordinators of various ministries, since people's lives are so busy. Father Tom emphasized the important contribution of the Service Commission noting that the PPC would not be able to provide adequate oversight of the ministries. He did suggest that the Service Commission and the PPC might discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the process. It was further observed that the new bulletin provides an opportunity to include Service Commission information on a regular basis.

Jon Stewart represented Adult Faith Formation which was initiated in 2003 and is comprised of 8 members. It is a vehicle to demonstrate the importance of adult learning. Both the book corner, located on the lower level of the church, and the sale of the Lenten and Advent Henri Nouwen publications provide a source of spiritual reflection and growth. Another focus of the AFF is the lecture series delivered by Father Bryan Hehir. Many from outside the parish added to the attendees of the lectures. A book discussion project has been initiated. In addition the women's scripture group has been a source of adult enrichment.

It was suggested that a small group within the AFF might draft the prayers of the faithful with the approval of Father Tom. Again it was noted that the new bulletin format provides opportunities for teaching through commentaries, book and film reviews. Another suggestion was the use of electronic information by adding AFF links to the menu bar of the parish web site. It was felt that there is a need to inform parishoners on a basic level the essential teachings of the Church. It was proposed that this might be promulgated through a three part lecture series.

IV Parish Appreciation Weekend

Father Tom will speak at all the Masses and request volunteers in each ministry to stand, also acknowledging all who contribute by their presence. Sister Evelyn requested PPC members to host at whatever Mass he or she attends.

V Updates

Father Tom announced that Christine Tierney has accepted the position of Director of Teacher Development. Christine brings not only enthusiasm but also an outstanding background in teacher training. The positions of elementary, middle and youth ministry administrators are in the recruitment process. It is felt that those who are rooted in the parish, as is Christine, would be the most appropriate candidates for the elementary and middle school slots.

It was further noted that the parish and school budgets are being developed.

There has been enthusiastic support for the new bulletin format,

Next PPC meeting Inter-council dinner, June 12, 2006 6:30 P.M.