

**St. John the Evangelist
Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2007**

Attendees:

Fr. Tom Powers
Steve Ulian
Kathi Aldridge
Steven Brown
Mary Gotgart

Sister Evelyn Ronan
Jane McDaid Murphy
Sally Miller
Patrick McGeary

Ed McCourt
Joe Tierney
Peg Creonte
Susan Jablonski

- 1. Opening Prayer and Reflection**
- 2. Review and accept minutes from September '07 meeting**
- 3. Introductions and welcome to new members**

We welcomed our new members to the PPC: Susan Jablonski, Mary Gotgart, and Bob Kelliher. The fourth spot remained open; Mike Racette was picked from the “jar” and will join us next month as the fourth new member of the council.

4. RENEW Program – Sally Miller, Jane McDaid Murphy, and Sr. Evelyn

Sally, Jane, and Sr. Evelyn attended an information session on the RENEW program in order to better understand the details. Some notes:

- A recent survey in the diocese indicated that two high priority needs of parishes are (1) more ways to get to know other parishioners and share faith, and (2) rich Sunday mass, including an inspiring homily, hospitality after the service, and inspiring music. The RENEW program is being promoted as one avenue to address the first need
- The RENEW program is structured as 5 “seasons” that roughly follow the seasons of the year; there are 6 separate “sessions” to each season, with corresponding guide books and themes for each season
- Historical participation rates are 10-12% of the parish; 15% was the best participation the RENEW coordinator knew of. Note that it was unclear how this statistic was gathered, and whether it included children, those unable to get out to such activities, etc.
- Cost is \$1800 per parish, plus a \$169 parish kit. Materials cost was approximately \$7 per participant for the program booklets

- Lay leadership drives this program; there would be a need for a group of parish leaders. There is a training session scheduled for February; if the parish were to participate, there would be a target of approximately 8-12 parishioner/leaders at this session. A “train the trainers” approach was suggested as an alternative if we do decide to go ahead with the program but don’t have a full suite of leaders identified by the time of the training.

There was discussion around the challenges of implementing such a program, including: how to find leaders who could commit to carrying out the program, how to potentially integrate other existing activities under the RENEW umbrella, and whether we could test out the program by implementing one “season” and seeing how it worked within our parish.

Fr. Tom will work to see if a parish who has successfully implemented this program could come to a future meeting to provide more information; we could potentially host a meeting for other local parishes who are considering the program and have some of the same questions and concerns.

5. School entrance – Fr. Tom

Some preliminary drawings of an improved side entrance for the school are being drawn up; the project is still in its early stages.

6. Eyes & Ears - All

- There was discussion around the difficult logistics of a particularly large funeral that was held recently. Traffic was affected all across town, particularly on Washington Street; attendees of the funeral who were not going on to the burial site were inadvertently caught up in the traffic which made it worse for everyone. Fr. Tom suggested working with the funeral home to discuss how to improve logistics; potentially just communicating to funeral attendees how best to schedule their departure based on whether they were continuing on to the cemetery.
- “Thank you’s” from across the parish for the wonderful pastoral care of Fr. Tom and Sr. Evelyn were shared.

7. Thank you to departing members

Steven Brown, Julie Joyce, John Calcio, and Ann O’Hearn were thanked for their three years of service to the PPC.

8. Next meeting: November 20, 2007