

Sacred Heart / St. Dominic Parish

Pastoral Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 17, 2007 / St. Patrick Room

Attending: Father Bertrand, Lori Arsenault, Bryan Davis, Rhonda Desrochers, Erik Johnson, Anne Johnson, Sr. Carol Jean Lappa, Sebastian Nahimana, Julie Opperman, Pat Wallace,

Opening Prayer

Accept minutes from last meeting

Campus Ministry: Joe Mailhot, diocesan campus minister for area universities, gave the council a brief overview of his ministry on the Portland and Gorham campuses and what he is doing with the Newman Club at USM. He fielded question and ideas from the council on how to reach out to the Portland students at USM in particular because there is no campus life like the Gorham campus. Five actions were decided upon at this meeting:

- 1) Create a web site within the SHSDP website
- 2) SHSD Weekly Bulletins will be given to Joe to distribute (Sebastian)
- 3) Joe's address will be added to the parish e-mail list
- 4) Joe will get advertising for SHSDP on the USM Radio and in their paper the Free Press
- 5) Weekend of November 17 and 18 Joe will come to masses at SHSD and speak briefly after each mass.

Commission Reports:

Stewardship Commission: Art has prepared a draft Statement of Operating Income to present to the parish during October. Art will be discussing it at all the masses one weekend in the next month. Other items appear in the Stewardship minutes that were not brought to the council meeting, since they were updates on continuing work.

Worship & Spirituality: Patty Wallace reported that Mary Duffy had relayed some thoughts she had on the coming year through Catherine Sullivan. She had thought they should hold an education session for all ministers to be held sometime in January. This would be a renewal session for our ministry. Sue Powell suggested that this might be done as a Cluster, or with other parishes, which are currently run by Jesuits, and invite a well-known speaker. Father will propose this at the next cluster meeting.

The insert explaining the liturgical changes will be prepared by Sue and these will be inserted in upcoming bulletins.

The cluster wide Penitential Service being held during Advent is due to be at SHSDP this year. Dates of Dec 3 or Dec 6 will be proposed by Father at the next cluster meeting.

[Date has since been determined to be **December 6**]

The Dec 8 holy day will not be celebrated that day as the Sunday Liturgy supersedes it.

W & S Commission should be aware of a Dec 12 Hispanic celebration which is likely for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Social Justice & Peace Commission:

Silent Auction (Parish Benefit) - October 20 from 5 PM to 8 PM

Multi-Cultural Harvest Pot-Luck Dinner (parish life commission, no reps present) - November 10 - Theme "Telling our stories, honoring our gifts, exploring our global connections"

Christmas – Preble St and Amistad - Anne will check regarding their needs/timing for this project. Christmas cards for the jail – check with Sr. Joanne Roy (Denny)

Human Trafficking discussion is being postponed until January. Larry Gilbert is the person desired to do the program – very knowledgeable.

Haiti - \$4,500.00 for classrooms was sent. Notre Dame & Parish Twinning – project to eliminate elephantiasis. Computer, health programs, school (classrooms). Pat Chase is going to Haiti with Anne Marie LeMieux (Konbit Sante) in January. Container on the way with supplies. 46 Children being sponsored (Sr. Rosemary)

Yard Sale - Pat Maurer would help in yard Sale next year - Ursula will not organize any more Yard Sales!

Peace Action Maine – annual dinner is October 27, Kathy Kelly will be speaker

Food Pantry – Denny and Erik explained that this had come up at the Pastoral Council meeting. There is a request to remove the responsibility for the pantry from the Parish Secretary and the Council had requested that SJ&P come up with a plan. Denny and Erik proposed:

- 1) New location (not in parish office), use space in the St. Barbara Room. This room has a direct access from outside the building plus the door opening into hallway where the food storage areas are located.

- 2) Have access to food pantry only one day per week (perhaps increase to two once new system is established and operating well).
- 3) Food pantries run by volunteers – 2 persons on duty at a time.
- 4) Have volunteer coordinator/manager for food pantry.
- 5) People requesting food could advise select items they need – a system needs to be developed for guidelines regarding quantity of food disbursed.
- 6) In order to raise awareness in parish and encourage volunteers, an educational program regarding hunger (local & global) would be offered, including discussion of the food pantry and request for volunteers. First weekend in November – 11/3 and 11/4 – need to check with Father and Lori.
- 7) Rhonda (Parish Council) expressed interest in working with food pantry. Erik will talk with her to see if she might be interested in taking leadership volunteers/managing.

African Commission:

Sebastian reported to the council that he has been talking to as many of the African Parishioners as possible and the biggest problem is communication. Ninety percent can't speak English and this keeps them isolated. He was wondering if certain prayers that the African community knows and are used frequently in church, be printed. This would allow the African Parishioners to follow along in church and help learn English.

Sebastian will organize for himself and several others to do a brief summary of the Mass in Kiriwanda.

Father Bertrand gave a follow up on the Kitchen Safety issues:

The following statement has been approved to have printed in the next bulletin.

"In response to the need to maintain a safe environment while we welcome all who enter our church, we have begun to lock certain areas of the parish hall and kitchen during our weekend masses. Parents are reminded that children should not go down to the restrooms unaccompanied under any circumstances. There is no substitute for the responsibilities of parents in this regard. Everyone's cooperation is appreciated."

A recent incident regarding one of our parish hall monitors was discussed by Father. The issue of having at least two people to monitor the Parish Hall or none at all was discussed, and it is determined that there will be no hall monitor, but safety measures taken and parent responsibility would be emphasized.

Faith Formation starts the weekend of 10/21/07

Christine Thibeault is being trained to present Protecting God's Children program

Elaine Shank will continue to manage the Child Lures program

Cluster Council Report:

Lori Arsenault reported that the Cluster Council has met once and there was lots of sharing and creativity. She believes that the greatest challenge is communication. Lori created a Council Meeting Minutes book with a place in it for notes and this book will be kept in the back of church. She will be introducing this to the Cluster Council at the next meeting.

Old business:

A Lending Library was suggested, books will need to be pre-approved, a rolling cart will be needed, someone has to be in charge of this and volunteers will be needed. This Lending Library will run on the honor system. Anne Johnson will give Ursula and Bill a call regarding this.

Bryan Davis is putting together a Parish photo album, he is sorting thru pictures and trying to put them into groups, this is an ongoing project.

New business:

Erik Johnson feels that it is time someone opens communication between the Catholic and Protestant churches. Erik wants to be directed to someone who could help facilitate this communication. Lori said that she could direct him to the correct people.

It was decided to post the SHSD Pastoral Council meeting minutes to the web site.

Closing prayer

Adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

