

Sacred Heart / St. Dominic Parish

Pastoral Council

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 27, 2007

Present: Fr. Bertrand, Lori Arsenault, Ann Johnson, Sebastian Nahimana, Christine Thibeault, Ray Rier, Erik Johnson, Pat Wallace, Sr. Patricia

Minutes:

1. Opening Prayer

2. Commission Reports:

Stewardship Commission – The financial report was delivered to the parish over the last two weeks by Fr. Bertrand.

Social Justice & Peace – Ann Johnson reported on the upgrade of the parish food pantry, that shelves have been built and painted, inventory done, and the blessing and rededication will be on December 9th. December 9th is also the deadline for bringing in donated personal care items for the annual Christmas Tote Bag project. The tote bags will be filled on that day as well. Also reported is that Amistad is sending peer support to Spring Harbor Hospital and MMC Emergency Room through the tote bag project.

Commission requests that our cluster representatives send a message to the cluster council members regarding the tote bag project. Congratulations go out from the chair and council to new and continuing members of this Commission for all of their activity and good service to the community.

Worship & Spirituality – Pat Wallace reported new Mass times for Christmas, 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. (Spanish) and 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and 9:45 a.m. on Christmas morning. Also reported the Cluster-wide Penitential Service on December 6th, and a December 14 Taizé prayer service in our chapel which will be led by Abraham Schecter. Also reported was an attendance of 12 at the November 26 Disciples in Mission introduction by Fr. Kevin Martin.

Parish Life – Christine reported no new activities until February for this commission, and then more in the spring. She asked about a Christmas Pageant gathering and offered help if children are going to be gathered for a rehearsal in December. Also discussed was several reactions to locking the food and coffee up during Mass, and that there is a perception that the image is troubling. While it was acknowledged that there is a sadness that this needs to be done, it was reaffirmed that it is prudent that these measures continue, and that collaboration be done with the Hispanic community to make sure that the transition between masses is smooth and the same practices followed.

Hispanic Ministries – Sr. Patricia reported that the Hispanic Women's group has begun to meet again, and is working on planning the mass and reception for Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Sebastian and Sr. Patricia agreed that the start for new immigrants remains difficult, and particularly so for Hispanic looking people, who are often victims of profiling or stereotyping, and presumed not trustworthy.

African Ministries – Sebastian reported that one large family has moved out of Maine to New Hampshire, so that community may look noticeably smaller for a while.

Faith Formation, Protecting God's Children – Christine reported that she had still not heard from the Chancery about her training, and would be more proactive.

Cluster 21 Council – Fr. Bertrand reported that the Cluster Pastoral Council was working on communications in the cluster, a mission statement, and council operational policies. The priests are working together to analyze the business manager position, and the bulletin editors from around the cluster are working on using their bulletins as a visual sign of unity in the cluster.

3. Old Business

Campus Ministry – It was reported that Joe Mailhot gave his introduction at 3 of the 4 masses two weeks ago, and will give the 4th one in the coming weeks. He has been promoting the mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe and will likely bring a group of students from the USM Newman Club to attend that mass. We have included his contact information on the Web site, and it will also be in the bulletin before long. He has done a good job at following up with us, and requests our prayers and support.

Lending Library – Ann Johnson reported having met with Cheryl Smith, and this project is on track for completion.

Ecumenical Dialogue – |Answer Erik Johnson's request from the last meeting, council members are invited to learn about ecumenical activities at USM through the Interfaith Chaplain's Web site which is now up to date, at www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/interfaith. Ecumenical activities will be posted there.

4. New Business

Christmas Toy warnings – Erik and Ann Johnson reported on an event happening in days regarding choosing safe toys. While it is too late to advertise to parishioners, Ann will write a statement for our upcoming bulletins about choosing safe and healthy toys for children this Christmas.

Non Violent Communication – Erik reported on this training workshop, and suggested it might be something to bring to our parish. He will be looking into it further, and other peacemaking efforts such as Christian Peacemaker Teams.

Developing Elder Activities – Ann asked about the goal of the council toward developing elder activities, and all agreed this is still a goal, and should work with Sr. Carole Jean in this regard. It was also reported that the children who have formed a string quartet for Christmas will continue their Christmas repertoire through March at the Barron Center playing for the residents there.

5. Disciples in Mission – The meeting was ended with the viewing of an introductory video of the Disciples in Mission Lenten program, with a follow-up explanation of how it can be incorporated into what we already do, leading deepening our efforts through prayerful reflection with each other, and throughout the cluster.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be the third Wednesday of January at 6:30 p.m., January 23, 2008.

Lori Arsenaault, chair, in the excused absence of our secretary, Rhonda DesRochers.

Fr. Bertrand express his thanks to all council members for attending.