

St. Jude Pastoral Council
Minutes of monthly meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
on Thursday, January 5, 2012

Present:

Fr. Dave Rogerson (Pastor), Sr. Betty Schumacher (Pastoral Associate), Tim Duffy (Chair), Ellen Beauchamp, Melody Brown, John Egbert, Pat McCormick, Colleen McLaughlin, and John Reilly.

Absent:

Tom Cast, Heidi Ochoa, and Roland Zayas.

Opening Prayer:

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m. with a prayer led by Tim.

Agenda Items:

- **New Year Message & Pastoral Update** – Personnel issues related to the Gospel choir situation have been a struggle and great challenge for the council during the past 6 months. At this time, the issue remains unresolved within the legal system and the projected time frame for resolution is uncertain. We acknowledge the pain and difficulty this matter has created within the parish and we strive for healing and reconciliation with those who have been adversely impacted. As pastoral leaders of the parish, Fr. Dave requested that the council recommit to a spirit of unity and growth in this new year, modeling positive leadership and the unity that we desire for our parish as a whole.

Planned agenda items for this meeting were sidelined by continued discussion related to the Gospel choir situation. The anticipated direction for moving forward includes: (1) resolution of legal issues, (2) readdress the parish to communicate current status, and (3) support efforts to grow back a vibrant gospel choir ministry.

Other parish news:

- (1) Fr. Joey has not yet moved as he had hoped he would.
 - (2) Possibility of hiring a part-time parish employee to assist with certain pastoral responsibilities that are now largely managed by Sr. Betty. Staff is currently in the process of developing a job description.
- **Pastoral Council Subcommittees** – Subcommittees did not break out as planned, however all council members present at this meeting discussed ways in which we could enhance connection and improve communication within the parish. Ideas that emerged included:
 - (1) “Council Corner” – periodic bulletin updates from the council in regards to progress being made towards parish goals, as well as any other important topics to present to the parish.
 - (2) “Coffee with the Council” – periodic opportunities for parishioners to speak with council members during social time after mass about any topics they (the parishioners) desire.
 - (3) Occasional updates during announcements at the end of weekend masses.
 - (4) Investigate opportunities for improved communication and connection through social media and other current technologies and applications.

- **Subcommittee Work Assignment** – Tim asked if each subcommittee would schedule an interim meeting amongst themselves before the February council meeting to discuss the goals and work each subcommittee would like to address in alignment with the established Focus Areas for the parish.

As a reminder, the three broad scope goals for the coming year that were agreed upon at the October council meeting included:

1. Liturgy – To enhance liturgical experiences for all parishioners. Council members agreed that recognizing diversity and promoting inclusion should be part of the design of all St. Jude’s liturgies. From the Listening Sessions we also heard that many parishioners would benefit from education about liturgy – possibly we could offer periodic “catechesis from the pulpit” (e.g., 1x per month) as part of Sunday liturgies. Introduction of the new Roman missal at Advent could be the spring board for implementing some form of periodic catechesis as part of Sunday liturgies.
2. Support and expand the positive momentum of parish goals set in the prior year – While not all work is complete, much has already been achieved towards specific parish goals set in the prior planning year (see attachment – St. Jude Directions and Goals 2011-2012). At this stage, it is important for the council and parish to continue work on prior year’s goals not yet initiated (e.g., establishing a mentorship program for new parishioners), to support programs already launched (e.g., small community groups, Young Adult Group, children’s choir), and to continuing supporting those efforts that have quickly taken root (e.g., Service Outreach ministry).
3. Communication – To implement improved communication strategies for the parish for the purpose of helping parishioners and the community at large to better know and understand the “life” (ministries, liturgies, opportunities for involvement and participation, etc.) of our parish community.

Subcommittee Assignments:

Liturgy – Ellen Beauchamp, Tom Cast, Rolando Zayas

Marketing & Outreach – Melody Brown, Colleen McLaughlin, Heidi Ochoa

Administration & Outreach – Tim Duffy, John Egbert, Pat McCormick

Closing Prayer

Closing reflections were offered by Tim and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.