

Holy Redeemer Pastoral Council Minutes
March 1, 2007

Present: Claire Cheesman, Adam Dupuis, Ray Fournier, Tom Lavrisa, Blair Malis, Sharron Quinn, Dave Roberts, Fr. Paul Shepherd, Anna Marie Young

Guest: Melissa Delaney

Opening Prayer

The meeting started with a prayer led by Fr. Paul, including a reading from the Book of Wisdom.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Feb. 8 meeting were reviewed and adopted, subject to a correction received by email about the date of the Coffee Sunday.

Report of Ministries

Youth Ministry

Melissa reported that 3 couples had volunteered to be present for Junior Youth Group meetings and they will serve on a rotating schedule. She also has chosen a theme for the meetings this session, one inspired by Pope John Paul II. She then gave a very moving talk about what Youth Ministry is. Youth are searching for love and Youth Ministry teaches them that their search should begin with the source of love, which is Jesus. Youth Ministry involves having a personal relationship with youth, as youth represent Christ in our midst. It involves praying with them, caring what they are about, and teaching them that they are precious. Some youth are living with serious problems such as drugs or alcohol and the experience of Youth Ministry has caused some of them to change their lives and return to the Church. In the World Youth Days, Pope John Paul II was calling youth to sainthood. He was challenging them to further the Culture of Life in society, to create God's Kingdom here on earth.

Anna Marie thanked Melissa and related that she has received good feedback from a parent on a Junior Youth Group meeting. Fr. Paul asked Melissa to give this talk at all Masses at an upcoming weekend.

Youth Representative

Adam Dupuis raised the issue of Melissa's position being a temporary one and the potential disruption of the Youth program at the parish if and when a hand-over to a new Coordinator of Youth Ministry would take place. Fr. Paul replied that the existing contract could be extended or a new one could be offered to allow continuity, if all agreed.

Youth Commission

Tom Lavrisa reported that the Youth Commission met on Feb. 22 to work on the measurements for the effectiveness of youth ministry at the parish. The Quality measurement will be enhanced by a survey of the youth and their parents twice per session. Due to the changes in leadership of the Youth Groups this year, the effectiveness measurement will not start until fall 2007. Data will be gathered this year to form a baseline from which to start these measurements.

Finance

Ray reported that no meeting was held. The year-end was completed and the budget figures for next year were passed to Barry Smith. Anna Marie raised the issue of publishing more financial data in the bulletin. Ray responded that this data is available at every AGM and he has not received requests from parishioners to have more information published. It is important to ensure any additional information is well presented so that the message is effective. Council members reiterated that more frequent communication might cause parishioners to consider this issue more often and increase their donations for our parish and its activities. Anna Marie also raised the issue of allowing parishioners to donate through direct debit as other parishes have found that donations increase when this is implemented. Ray responded that this issue requires a champion on Finance Council to ensure that it will be carried out properly. Anna Marie will get further details from these parishes on how to proceed and what pitfalls we may encounter.

Resignation

Tom Dewar tendered his resignation from Pastoral Council due to time commitments and health reasons. His resignation was accepted. His name will be removed from the front of the bulletin.

Liturgy

Fr. Paul reported that no meeting was held. He is working with a priest studying at St. Paul's to come to our parish to say Mass on Sundays, replacing Fr. Jude. The Echoes of Faith program requires a volunteer to lead the sessions. This program is derived from one in the US to teach catechetics, using books, videos and a shared meal. Job descriptions for the receptionist and Coordinator of Youth Ministry are complete; those for the Admin Assistant and visiting priests are in preparation. Deacon Paul is working on enhancements to our liturgical celebrations. No progress to report on re-opening the library yet, an item in the bulletin may encourage someone to step forward to lead this. Two volunteers now help with usher duties at the 7:00 p.m. Sunday Mass.

Education

Claire reported that there was no meeting this month.

Social Mission

Dave & Theresa Roberts were getting to know the groups within this ministry. Peace and Development was planning a workshop on Share Lent. The Pro-Life group reported on the upcoming Hike for Life and March for Life on Parliament Hill. The Refugee Committee has received help for the family's education needs; they still need some help with food preparation, hygiene and personal transport. The parish Mission Ministry received a request from Fr. Gordon Baker to support his mission in South America.

Parish and Community Life

Sharron Quinn reported that the Coffee Sunday organized by Mrs. Coombs and the Youth Groups went very well. The change in location to the vestibule of the church and the use of china encouraged many to stay and chat with others. They are planning a Healing Mass and St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The hall area can be expanded onto the carpeted area by moving some of the partitions to allow, say, a DJ into that space. The Holy Redeemer Ladies Catering service has disbanded, so we are looking forward to a Parish Auxiliary forming to host social gatherings in conjunction with P&CL.

Events Committee

The procedure for booking the hall was reviewed. The group wishing to book the hall will check with the Admin Assistant to see if the hall is free on the requested day. If so, they will apply to use the hall with the Events Committee, who have developed a list of criteria for such approval. If the request is approved, Fr. Paul will sign the request and the event will be posted on the parish calendar at the parish web site. Groups that are regular users of the hall can apply for all their events for the whole year, so that bookings are known well in advance. This will allow planning of parish events to be more proactive and avoid conflicts. This change in booking the hall will be communicated to all groups at an upcoming meeting. A set of rental applications and contracts were presented at the meeting for review by councilors.

Varia

A person was leaving pamphlets on car windshields after Masses one weekend. This person was asked to stop. Parishioners should know that the parish never distributes information in this manner.

A request was received from a parishioner for support in creating a video on vocations. The Pastoral Council was concerned about the level of responsibility for the project, so declined the request.

The chairs of parish ministries are to remind their members to contact the chair or get a replacement if they can't discharge their duty when they are scheduled for their service. A reminder by the chair before each Sunday would be helpful to remind members of their duties.

Two members of the Education Committee will attend a conference called "Ambassadors for Christ" on June 21 – 23.

The Institute for Catholic Education is conducting a survey of Catholics on the future of Catholic Schools in Ontario. This is as a response to attacks on public funding of separate schools, which have been successful in other provinces of Canada. Results of this survey should provide evidence of the strong support Catholics have for their schools.

Anna Marie presented a bulletin from a parish in the USA as an example of some ideas we can use to update our bulletin, to make the events more appealing. It includes more illustrations, greater use of colour and a variety of font styles and sizes.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held March 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish boardroom.