

Holy Redeemer Pastoral Council
Minutes
January 2, 2007

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

Absent: Tom Dewar

Opening Prayer

The meeting started with a prayer led by Fr. Paul

Ministry Day of Awareness

Fr. Paul submitted an article which will appear in the January calendar and the announcement after the upcoming weekend Masses advertising the Ministry Day of Awareness, to be held Sunday January 21 in the afternoon. The purpose of the seminar is to create an action plan to further the goal of the parish this year, which is to improve Communication and Invitation in the parish. Blair Malis volunteered to help organize the seminar and the members of Pastoral Council will act as facilitators of the group discussions.

Youth Ministry

Fr. Paul received a number of emails regarding Junior Youth Group meetings. There were concerns expressed about the amount of religious instruction and the atmosphere at these meetings. Fr. Paul discussed the situation with the directors of the Ministry, the co-ordinator, and the families involved. The directors agreed they need help in three areas: adult support at the meetings, speakers for talks to be presented, and a theme & direction for the meetings. Adam Dupuis volunteered to help recruit adults by placing a message in the bulletin and an announcement after Masses, while Melissa Delaney would assist with the second and third items. As in past years, January would be used to plan the meetings for the remainder of the pastoral year, with meetings starting again in February. Fr. Paul and Anna Marie will meet with Melissa to explain what is required to support Youth Ministry and define the program for the parish.

Communication at Council Meetings

A discussion was held on communication at meetings. Members of Pastoral Council were urged to speak their mind on the issues that are raised. It is not necessary that we achieve unanimity on all items, but we certainly would like to know everyone's point of view. As representatives of parishioners, we have a duty to speak up, especially if we disagree with a policy or activity at the parish. Our decision-making will benefit from getting all points of view on the topic.

Proposed Parish Boundary Changes

Fr. Paul received a letter from Msgr. Kevin Beach asking for feedback on a proposed change to our parish boundaries. The proposed boundaries of the new parish of St. Andrew would take in all of Barrhaven, leaving a shortage of parishioners for St. Pat's Fallowfield. To remedy this situation, it is proposed that the portion of our parish in Bridlewood south of the hydro lines be rezoned as being within St. Pat's boundaries, bringing its population to a viable level. Pastoral Council members are to consider this proposal and help Fr. Paul draft his reply at the next Council meeting.

Fr. Jude's Celebration

As Fr. Jude has completed his studies and work at our parish, he will be returning home to continue his ministry. Sharron Quinn volunteered to contact Dora Mesec to organize a celebration and obtain a gift thanking him for his work among us.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be January 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish boardroom. Meetings will be scheduled at approximately three-week intervals, on Thursday evenings.