

Pastoral Stewardship Council Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2005  
7:00 PM at SAG Hall

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Present: Fr. George Aranha, Helen Baumann (STA Site Committee), Laura Chiu (OLR Site Committee), Mary Clifford and MaryBeth Lefebve (Youth Ministry), Phil Coates (Communications), Chris Lundin (Liturgy Board), Tom Jaworowski (HCC), Margaret Lane (Catechetics), Gerard McGuire (Spiritual Development), Bud McKenna (Finance Committee), Jim McLaughlin (Facilities), Joan Meyn (Community Life Board), Jesse Rueza (Hispanic Ministry), Chuck Tully (Administration) Absent: SAG Site Comm, and Fr. Eddie Obero.  
OBSERVERS: Micky Martin

**Highlights:** There is a lot going on in the parish! Read the minutes. We will be focusing on issues related to Stewardship for the remainder of this year.

The meeting was called to order by Phil Coates, and there was a brief discussion of the agenda. Chris Lundin offered the opening prayer. The September minutes were reviewed, and approved as submitted

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:** The OLR refurbishment is proceeding on track, and is generating a lot of excitement and cooperation at OLR.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:**

- 1 Scripture Study: Fr. George's class on Thursdays is going well. He has about 20 people at the morning session and about 30 in the evening. The class is scheduled to go until Thanksgiving, and then they will reevaluate it. Sue is working with Gerard to develop a program for Advent.
2. Parish Patron Parties: The first PPP at OLR was a good beginning. They told the story of OLR. Maria did the story in Spanish. They prayed a decade of the rosary, and had special holy cards. There was a party in the hall. The Hispanic community and the Young Adult Group joined in the party. The SAG party is scheduled for November 19, 2005. SES is looking at a January party. The kids already have costumes and can tell the story. STA will be January 28, 2006. Fr. George encouraged all the PSC members to make an effort to attend these events.
3. Coffee with the Pastor: Fr. George is trying to have his schedule include time for him to join the parishioners for coffee after mass. There have been some issues with the scheduling, but he will continue to work to make this happen. The goal is to be available for conversations related to the mass and related spiritual issues, not parish operations.
4. SESS News Flash: The principal of SESS has been appointed to a provincial job. Sister Adella Armentraut, D.C will be the new principal at SES. Also, Sr Janet has taken a job in San Jose, so SES development is now run by two lay people, Mrs. Veronica Polini and Ms. Patty McGraw.
5. Concerns about PSC Status/Process: Fr. George requested that the PSC set a time line to evaluate the new org structure. All agreed that this was an excellent idea. Chris queried whether this is what Maureen Clark has been asked to do. The PSC agreed to have a day of reflection on Feb. 4, 2006. \*\*Helen agreed to find a location for the retreat.

6. Multifaith Voices: Fr George and Fr Eddie, and many others from our parish, took part in an ecumenical program celebrating peace and justice.
7. Ministry to Sick and Homebound: Fr. George will be making a presentation on the ministry to the sick and homebound at SAG on October 21, 2005 from 7-9 p.m. All are welcome.
8. Fr. George reported that our parish had a "Blessing of the Animals" to commemorate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi at SAG in early October.

#### **BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Chuck is working with our new calendar program to get all of the facilities data into the program. It is a terrific program, but there are a lot of issues to be resolved as he gets it up and running. It will be possible to post the mass schedule and the presiders on the calendar. Helen suggested that we consider publishing the monthly calendar as an insert in the bulletin. She has seen this in other churches. It is great to have it on the web, but might be even better if it was on the refrigerator.

Chris Lundin also reported that he has been trying to coordinate with Maureen Clark. He will try to set up a meeting next week. Maureen's proposal requires a lot of work by the PSC and other volunteers to provide the data needed for her analysis. We will need to encourage active participation at all levels.

#### **MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Bud presented a draft of the finance report for last year. This will be reviewed and Fr George will write a letter to the parish, and it will be distributed in the bulletin. Bottom line, the parish is in good shape financially. Note that the parish got some money from a bequest that was not forthcoming, and it was necessary for the diocesan attorney to get involved to convince the family to turn over the funds. The parish has money in a reserve account. The interest from this fund is used for maintenance and upgrades to parish facilities. The International School of the Peninsula is an important tenant. The school appears to be doing well. Its classrooms are full, and they are committed to this site.

**COMMUNITY LIFE:** The parish picnic was a great success with 395 parishioners attending. The Knights of Columbus did a great job on the food. Fr. George and the Community Life Team placed a special focus on welcoming newcomers to the parish. The kids had fun in a jumper and with games organized by Sue Clingingsmith and the high school students.

Fr. Hester will present a talk on "End of Life Issues" on November 2, 2005. There will be a parish square dance party at SAG on October 22, 2005 from 7-10 p.m. The annual mass of remembrance will be on November 5 at SAG 5:00 mass. The Widows and Widowers group will host a reception following the mass.

The team is working to institute a new program of potluck dinners at the rectory to **welcome our newcomers**. Fr. George has given his enthusiastic support to this concept, and many parishioners have offered to help. They are currently looking for a chair or chairs for this team. One suggestion would be for each ministry team to "host" the dinner once a year. This would be an opportunity to spend an evening at the rectory getting to know the priests and some newcomers. For the newcomers it would be an opportunity to feel like an insider, in the rectory, and to talk to active parishioners about the community and opportunities for becoming involved in the life of the parish. The PSC gave its unanimous support to this concept, and agreed in principle that the ministry teams should each be able and willing to manage the hosting duties about once a year.

**CATECHETICAL TEAM:** Margaret Lane will be the representative to the PSC for this ministry. There were four parents who attended the first meeting of this team. They are working on their mission statement. Margaret was hoping to report on the number of students enrolled in the catechetical programs, but Susan is away, so this will have to wait until next month. The classes are full, and all classes have catechists. The team is currently focusing primarily on separating the responsibilities of the catechetical and the youth ministry teams. These lines are getting clearer.

**ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:** This ministry team has moved its regular meeting time from the third Wednesday to the fourth Wednesday at 7:00 at the pastoral center. The next meeting will be October 26, 2005. All are welcome. Roberta Uebbing has agreed to serve as the volunteer coordinator for this team.

This team is sponsoring a presentation by Ann Grycz to the PSC in February. It wants to encourage fuller participation by the parish in this program. Fr. George clarified that the parish pays the tuition for any parishioner who wants to participate in ILM; the student buys the books. The team will be preparing a bulletin insert about the courses offered.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, the team sponsored a presentation by Sr. Georgia about her work in Zimbabwe and Cameroon, where she specialized in developing curriculum for AIDS education. There were about 30 people at the presentation. Sister also shared her person story. For more details refer to the attached Ministry Team Report\*.

The parish is investigating the usefulness of bulletin inserts for catechesis. Susan has ordered a program called "Faith Connection". All are encouraged to check this out and provide feedback to Adult Spiritual Development about whether or not we should keep it up when our free subscription runs out.

On November 1, 2005, the team is cosponsoring a program on Prop 73 with HCC. The plan is to have an open forum that presents both sides. A speaker from Planned Parenthood will do the con side; Carol Hogan from the DSJ will do the pro side. This program will only discuss this one proposition. Laura Chiu noted that TMC is sponsoring a presentation on all of the propositions at SAG on October 19, 2005 by the sisters from Jericho.org. This will be a bipartisan discussion of all of the propositions.

Gerard and Jean Ramaciotti have been sponsoring a **Centering Prayer group** on Tuesday evenings. Gerard is no longer able to do this because he is also involved in JustFaith on Tuesdays. It is not clear what will happen to this group, but the team would love to have some more help with this ministry. Also Jean Ramaciotti is looking for sponsors for RCIA participants. Fr. George requested an update from the team on the status of the small faith and special prayer groups in the parish, e.g., charismatic prayer, Medjugore prayer, healing prayer, etc.

There is a new **JustFaith** group starting at St. Joseph's in MV. There are seven participants. The team is looking to present some events in January on the theme of conscience formation. They are also looking into sponsoring an Advent retreat. It was noted that Fr. Tim Meier will be presenting an **Advent retreat** that is open to the parish on December 3, 2005 from 12-4 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Colorado Avenue.

The **Stewardship Campaign** this year is being led by the Adult Spiritual Development Team. Gerard proposed that the parish decouple the treasure aspect of Stewardship from our education campaign this year. He further proposed ordering a program put out by St. Anthony Messenger. The focus of the campaign would be on time and talent. Fr George commented that it

is important for the parish to recognize those people who have made a difference in the parish. Last year they recognized Walt, Arlen and Mikey. Bud noted that last year there was a focus on getting children engaged in stewardship by having special envelopes for the kids. How can we include a special invitation to the kids this year?

The **Time and Talent Booklet** is an integral part of the stewardship program. This year the ministry teams are each being asked to write their own piece for the booklet. Mark Antonio has provided us with a draft based on the material from last years booklet. This draft has been circulated to the reps for each ministry. After a discussion, it was agreed that all of the feedback for the booklet would be given to Helen by October 29<sup>th</sup>.

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** Mary Clifford was introduced as the new chair of the Youth Ministry Team board. MaryBeth will be the PSC rep for now. The team is looking for a qualified high school student who could do this job.

. The parish is looking to hire a new youth minister, because everyone agrees that it is too much for Sue to run the catechetical program and the youth program. See the attached report for more detail on this subject. The board is considering five applicants, two of whom seem especially strong. They are working with Sandy Scott, the youth ministry coordinator for the DSJ.

In the interim, the team is working to improve communications between the parents and the programs and among the sites. They are trying to implement a Sunday morning middle school program to serve those families that have conflicts with the evening program. Gerard suggested that they look into the “Jaywalking” program for high school students that is put out by the people who do JustFaith.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Mary Sullivan is a new member of the Communications Ministry. She has offered to create posters to advertise parish events in order to encourage broader participation. Phil brought one of her posters as a sample. These will be posted at each site.

The team has created flyers identifying our churches and giving mass time. These will be distributed to all of the hotels in Palo Alto very soon.

**LITURGY MINISTRY BOARD:** There is a major issue confronting this team arising from the lack of presiders to cover the daily masses in the parish. The team is working with the mass communities to find creative solutions to this dilemma . Please see the attached minutes of the last team meeting.

**HUMAN CONCERNS:** October is “Respect Life” month. There will be a anti-death penalty vigil at Lytton Plaza on October 22, 2005 from 11-1:00 p.m. Also, the Stanford Aurora Forum is hosting a panel discussion featuring Sr. Helen Prejean on October 27, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Helen to identify and reserve location for PSC retreat on Feb. 4, 2006

**ATTACHMENTS;**

1. Adult Spiritual Development report on Sr. Georgia
2. Youth Ministry Report
3. Liturgy Team meeting minutes from October 11, 2005.

4. Finance Committee Draft Report.
5. Building and Maintenance Committee meeting minutes from Sept 20, 2005.

Next Meeting is on November 9, 2005 at SAG.

Agenda: MaryBeth will lead us in the opening prayer.