

Pastoral Stewardship Council Meeting Minutes for May 10, 2006
7:00 PM at SAG Hall

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present: Susan Adams (SAG Site Committee), Fr. George Aranha, Helen Baumann (STA Site Committee), MaryBeth Lefebvre (Youth Ministry), Laura Chiu (OLR Site Committee), Phil Coates (outgoing Chair), Mary Sullivan (Communications), Tom Jaworowski (HCC), Micky Martin (Liturgy Board), Gerard McGuire (Adult Spiritual Development), Bud McKenna (Finance and Facilities Committees), Marguerite Purcell (Community Life Board), Fr. Eddie Obero, Jesse Rueza (Hispanic Ministry), Sue Clingingsmith, (Catechetics)

Absent: Chuck Tully (Administration)

OBSERVERS: Anne Coates, Ruth Chippendale, Mikey Hoag, and Chris Lundin

Highlights: Bud McKenna, Susan Adams and Tom Jaworowski have been elected to serve as the executive committee of the PSC for the 2006-2007. They are the chair, the vice-chair and the secretary.

The meeting was called to order by Phil Coates.

Micky led us in a prayer. There was a brief discussion of the agenda.

MINUTES: The April minutes were reviewed, and approved.

ELECTION OF PSC OFFICERS FOR 2006-2007:

There was a report by the nominating committee and then an open opportunity for nominations to serve as the officers of the PSC for the coming year. We had two candidates for Chair and vice-Chair. Tom J ran unopposed for secretary. Bud McKenna was elected to serve as the chair, and Susan Adams was elected to serve as the vice-chair.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL AND THE FLOOR:

Marguerite reminded all of us that Community Life would be sponsoring a potluck dinner Going Away celebration for Fr Eddie on May 20th. She encouraged participation by all of the PSC.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

1. Fr George has receive the formal notice appointing Fr. Tony Medina to serve our parish for the next year. Fr. Medina was previously in this parish for two years. He has been at St. Patrick's for the last six years, and now he is coming back, especially to help with the Spanish masses.
2. Fr. Eddie will be going to St. John Vianney in San Jose.
3. June 4th is Pentecost. On that Sunday the parish will be commissioning its liturgical ministers at all of the masses, and giving out the Paul VI awards. There will be a tea in the Pastoral Garden, in the afternoon, to honor the liturgical ministers, the catechists and the pastoral home ministers who have served this past year.
4. Fr. George then read a prepared statement thanking everyone who has participated in and contributed to our ongoing experiment in leadership in the parish. The full text of his statement is attached to these minutes as Attachment 1.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: (presented by Bud McKenna)

1. The Finance Committee is headed into the budgeting process for next year. Chuck is working on this. It usually takes a couple of iterations to get a proposal to submit to Fr. George. The audit report for the past year is due to the DSJ by August 1, 2006.
2. Chuck is still struggling with the Homer House remodel. He has obtained a third bid, and the three bids will be reviewed by the DSJ rep. The prices are all close, and the process is moving forward. The Finance Committee is sensitive about the vacancy of the units, especially in light of the fact that Fr. Meier and Fr. Lenane are no longer paying rent.

PAROCIAL VICAR'S REPORT:

Fr. Eddie took the opportunity to thank the PSC for its support. He has served the parish for four years, and in that time he has learned to love this parish. He has informed the people at Casa Olga and Lytton Gardens that he will be moving on, but that God is not moving. He enjoyed his time at STA, and appreciates the support he got from all the parishioners. Ann Coates commented that Fr. Eddie had given the gift of his heart to the parish, and that the parish loves him in return.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

LITURGY MINISTRY TEAM: Micky reported on the last meeting of the ministry team. There were eleven regular members of the ministry team and five reps from the 12:15 daily mass present at the meeting. Chris Lundin presented a detailed statement of the history of the process that the team had followed in making its recommendations. Stopping the 12:15 mass was not a new idea. The crucial issue is the lack of priests. The response was that every mass community when there is a proposal to eliminate their mass.

Based on its current information, the team is concerned that we will have more and more communion services, because they are not optimistic that we will be able to recruit more priests. One council member asked if we could petition the bishop for another priest. There will be a problem in May because both priests will be gone to a workshop at the invitation of the bishop. Query whether it would be possible to present the workshops twice so that both priests could get the benefit, but all the parishes in the diocese would not be suffering from the absence of clergy.

The bottom line is that the ministry team does not contemplate any change in the current mass schedule.

Phil C. asked if there was any response to the queries we heard at the last PSC meeting:

1. With two masses and two priests...?
2. Our need to request more help from the DSJ.

Chris Lundin responded that he was comfortable that the decision takes the smallest community, and the one with the most scheduling problems, and leaves them with two masses each week. Fr. George has talked to Fr. Samy, and he could help with mass in the morning, but not at noon. Fr. John Coleman will be in residence in EPA starting July 1, 2006 and he may be able to assist with the noon mass.

Susan Adams noted that in New Brunswick people know how to appreciate the mass when it happens since there is only one priest in 50 miles. She reminded us that the goal of the parish organization team was to create a process where people could have a voice and be encouraged to participate in the parish decisions. She is not comfortable with the tone of this discussion. We need to be careful to maintain a respectful tone in all our dialogues. When people are upset, they need to have a way to express their concerns. Sue is concerned because she felt the discussion at the Lit Ministry Team meeting suggested that the parish can't solve its own problems, that it is "a failure" and that we should go the bishop and request to be split into two or more parishes. This whole episode suggests to Sue that we need to revisit our process issues.

Bud McKenna noted that the options for the 12:15 are still out there; the door is not closed. It would be great if the Lit Min tells the 12:15 that we are still working on solving this problem.

CATECHETICAL MINISTRY REPORT: Sue let us all know that this has been a wonderful year. She had a focus on getting the numbers up for the 3rd graders, and they did better this year than last year. Next year her goal is to attract the 4th and 5th graders by giving them a taste of the junior high program. Catechists are in place for next year. The parents are getting more involved. First Communion at OLR was really beautiful. They had a great script and each child had a role in the mass.

Sue will finish up the confirmation training program this year. There is a gathering on May 26th, and confirmation is on May 27th at St. Patrick's. They will have a party closing out the year, and a Fun Day for registration for next year. The kids in the Youth Group will be organizing the activities for the Fun Day. On June 11th, there will be a "cross-over ritual" for the rising 6th graders. They will receive a special blessing and their own bible.

Fr George inquired about possible future programs, for instance, could we offer Vacation Bible School. There were comments that this is very popular, with many parents sending their children to the program at the Lutheran church. Sue noted that this is on her wish list for the future, but it takes a big team of volunteers to make this happen. Marguerite asked Sue how she was coming in recruiting a board. Sue said she is "at square one", but she has four parents who have expressed interest in the board. In response to a question, Sue guessed that there are about 200 children in the catechetical program. She believes that the numbers of participants is up from last year.

YOUTH MINISTRY: MaryBeth reported that Rob Manfrey, our new youth program coordinator, is officially on board. She will invite him to the June PSC meeting. On April 30th there was a meeting of MaryBeth, Fr. George, Sue C., Mary Clifford and Rob to effect a transition from Sue to Rob. On Sunday evening, the entire team, including the youth, was involved in a "thank you" to Sue.

At this time the Youth Ministry Board is meeting weekly to plan for next year. They are working on their budget. It is new for them to purchase curriculum and year books. Also, registration for next year is a large issue. They are also struggling with the schedule and format of the high school and middle school programs. This has never been peaceful. They are considering Wed, Thursday, Sunday afternoon, and Sunday evening. They are inviting input. Rob is reaching out to the families.

The best news is that Maria is interested in coordinating the Anglo and Hispanic youth programs. The Spanish speaking students want to be part of Rob's program. They need catechists. They need more help on the board. Parents of young families hesitate to commit. This is very difficult; they want to get broad representation from the community.

The name of the new program is STAY—STA Youth.

The kids cooked a meal for Hotel de Zink, picked oranges and did a project for a group in Texas.

ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT: Gerard reported on the many programs that have been sponsored by the ASD Ministry Team. There was the Lenten series, with Fr Wright, Ron Rolheiser, Pete Fullerton and Jason Kotecki. In September, they will bring Pam Borkland to STA and in October they will bring Keenan Osborne.

The ministry team participants are also looking at having a regular piece in the bulletin...a spiritual "food for thought" comment. They are also looking at doing a spiritual retreat for the

parish, offsite, possibly for Advent. Sue C suggested looking into a program out of Texas called CHIRP. The purpose of the CHIRP guided retreat is to build community. JustFaith has a film library. The team is considering sponsoring a movie night. They are also thinking about how they could increase their presence on the parish website. Please note that Centering Prayer will return to the parish in the fall. The ASD team has identified a need to maintain a record of its events and contacts info for future reference. There is much work to do and they are actively looking for new members to join the team. They have consulted with Maria about how their two ministries can coordinate more closely in the future.

Micky noted that the most successful community building activities in the past have been the small faith sharing groups like CFM and Renew. Could ASD do something like this for us? Also, for seventeen years we had a bible study course that covered all the books of the bible. Could this happen again? Micky is aware of four continuing small faith sharing groups that are currently active in the parish.

Marguerite is aware of a program run by the Presbyterians that might provide some ideas. Also there was a comment that the three minute catechesis after mass might stimulate interest if regularly presented.

HCC: Tom Jaworowski happily reported that there is an agreement to stop the fighting in Darfur, but that it is important for all of us to do what we can to keep the pressure up on this issue. To this end he passed out contact info to let us know what we can do to support the effort. The goal is to get NATO peacekeepers to assist the country so that aid workers can return and move toward a resolution of the conflict.

He also reported that PIA is working to encourage funding for health care programs. They held a successful gathering at St Matthew's in San Mateo.

It was also noted that Tom received a "Community Hero" award from PIA for his committed service to the community through that organization. He missed the award ceremony so his awards will be presented at the 8:45 mass.

PSC BUSINESS: Chris Lundin reported that Maureen Clark had circulated the survey to 48 people and she got 32 responses. She expects to have the preliminary info by May 17th for the retreat. She will bring her computer and PowerPoint presentation to the retreat. Sue C can bring a screen for the presentation. Mary Sullivan is looking for a facilitator for us for the retreat.

The PSC executive committee and anyone who wants to help will meet Wed, the 17th, to plan the retreat. Helen will send out directions, the time is 9-1, we will have a carpool leaving from the pastoral center.

ACTION ITEMS:

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS BY LIT MIN TEAM AND THE THREE SITE COMMITTEES.

ATTACHMENTS;

1. Statement from Fr. George

Next Meeting is on June 14, 2006 at SAG.

Agenda: Mary Sullivan will lead the opening prayer.

Fr. George Aranha's Statement to the PSC, May 10, 2006:

As we come to the end of this first year of the Pastoral Stewardship Council, I want to thank all our members for all the great work we have accomplished so far. It has been very encouraging to see good attendance at all our meetings. Participation has been very good from all the segments of our parish community and ministries. The reports have been well prepared and they have given us all a good sense of where the parish is headed.

I want to wish our new executive committee all the very best as they guide the Pastoral Stewardship Council, with me, into the future. My personal thanks and gratitude go to Phil, Gerard and Helen for their leadership this year.

This past year of the Pastoral Stewardship Council has been an experiment for me in leadership. I hope that the active participation of all the laity in our various committees and boards will continue and grow day by day for the good of our parish and for the good of our church.

This past year has also been an opportunity for me to clarify for myself my role as pastor in the Pastoral Stewardship Council. After much hesitation and uncertainty, this past year I agreed to be an equal voting member with the other members of the Council as an experiment. After much prayer, reflection and consultation with leaders in other walks of life, in future decision-making processes, I will not consider myself a voting member of the Council. Since the Pastoral Stewardship Council is an advisory board to the canonical pastor, I will continue to respect the decision-making process of the council and receive the decisions made as recommendations for my final decision.

Thank you for your understanding and your participation. Together we can make a difference.