

PASTORAL STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
Minutes for the PSC Meeting on January 10, 2007
7:00 PM at Our Lady of the Rosary Church

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present: Fr. George Aranha (Pastor), Susan Adams (SAG Site Committee), Helen Baumann (STA Site Committee), Laura Chiu (OLR Site Committee), Tom Jaworowski (Human Concerns Committee), Jerry Lucha (Catechetical Board), Mary Beth Lefebvre (Youth Ministry Board), Micky Martin (Liturgy Board), Gerard McGuire (Adult Spiritual Development), Bud McKenna (Facilities Committee), Fr. Tony Medina (Parochial Vicar), Joe Passarello (Finance Committee), Joan Myen (Community Life Board), Jesse Ruezga (Hispanic Leadership Team), Chuck Tully (Parish Administrator)

Absent: Communications Committee

Guests: Walt Lundin, Jim McLaughlin

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

A presentation by a diocesan staff member on the Percept data will be placed on the agenda for a future PSC meeting. This presentation will assist the PSC to understand the significance of the Percept data and suggest ways that they might be used in parish planning.

Fr. George gave an update on the Diocesan Endowment and Capital Campaign for our parish. Meetings have been held to enroll parishioners as volunteers to contact families for contributions to this campaign. Fr. George also announced the schedule for four Burning Bush events to be held each month from January through April.

The ministry representatives for three ministries (SAG Site Committee, the Facilities Committee, and the Finance Committee) presented their quarterly oral and written reports on their activities to the PSC. These three written reports are included as Attachments to these minutes.

The PSC approved STA Parish acceptance of the invitation to join the Santa Clara County Council of Churches. The Bylaws for the PSC were approved with two minor modifications and signed by the Pastor, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairwoman of the PSC.

The draft of the mission statement for the parish was approved by the PSC. This draft will be discussed by each of the 13 ministries and sent back to the PSC with recommendations from the ministries.

Prologue

The meeting was called to order by Bud McKenna at 7:06 PM. Joe led the attendees in the opening prayer, the *Our Father*. Gerard volunteered to lead the group in the opening prayer for the February 14th PSC Meeting. The minutes were approved as read after the misspelling of Fr. Aranha's name was corrected.

Comments from the Council and the Floor

Mary Beth made an announcement about the post-Christmas Giving Tree. This tree has been decorated with tiny, colorful purses which enable the person who selects one of these purses to make a contribution to the fund for the Youth Retreat at Tahoe. This fund will help pay for the expenses of the *confirmandi* who will be participating in the retreat prior to their receiving this sacrament.

The PSC Retreat for the new PSC Board will be held on the third Saturday in June, June 16, 2007. Confirmation will be administered on the second Saturday of June, June 9th.

Walt Lundin brought up the matter of the Percept data. He asked if it had been read by the PSC Board so that it could be acted upon. Helen mentioned that Mike McMahon found this data on the diocesan web site and forwarded it to her. She thinks the data are quite useful for parish planning. Bud pointed out that it has been available to members of the PSC. Joe commented that the Percept report needs a champion from the PSC to explain its potential to the Council for implementation in the future. Jim McLaughlin suggested that a presentation on Percept to the PSC be arranged for a future meeting. Gerard concurred and proposed that it be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Bud agreed that this will be done for a meeting in the near future.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fr. George gave an update on the Diocesan Endowment and Capital Campaign within our parish. Lindsay Bloch, who is giving presentations to parishes within the San Jose Diocese, is meeting tonight with 31 parish representatives. Fr. George informed the group about a film which explains the purpose and the objectives of this campaign. These funds collected will be expended in three main areas: 1) Development, 2) Operations, and 3) Capital Projects. (eg., churches and schools).

Fr. George distributed the packet, 'Rooted in Faith - Embracing the Future'. The goal of our campaign is to obtain 80% of the funds from contacting families in the parish and the remaining 20% from miscellaneous sources.

The Parish Development Committee has been formed consisting of PSC leaders, Fr. Tony, and Cathy Miller, and it has held its initial meeting. In addition, meetings with a group of 8 to 10 people will be held on several consecutive Thursday evenings.

Fr. George observed that new volunteers are being solicited. Orientation for this campaign was held on the evenings of the 18th and 25th of January. The goal is to get about 20 volunteers for this campaign..

Susan recounted her experience as a volunteer: She met and talked to people in the parish and enjoyed this experience. The money sought became a secondary consideration after the personal interaction with the people she encountered and got to know.

Fr. George brought up the matter of announcing or publishing the names of the contributors in the parish bulletin. Some of the attendees presented different ideas for acknowledging contributors. Jerry suggested publishing the names of contributors only once during a period (one week or more) when their contributions were received. This method met with the approval of the PSC.

Fr. George gave the schedule of the Burning Bush sessions during the next four months. These sessions will be held at OLR on the fourth Sunday of each month. On January 28th the topic will be "Power and Powerlessness in Leadership", and the presenters will be Rev. David Mann, Executive Director of PIA, Carolina Cervantes, local organizer of PIA, and Tom Jaworowski, PIA member. In February the topic will be 'Evangelization' with Fr. Tony as the presenter. In March the topic will be 'Just War and The War in Iraq', coordinated by Laura Chiu and Walt Lundin. In April the topic will be 'Faith Challenges'.

Finally, Fr. George reminded the attendees of the Parish Patron Party (PPP) for St. Thomas Aquinas to be held on his feast day, January 28th. Gerard emphasized that the Liturgy for January 28th will focus on 'What Are We as a Church?'

MINISTRY REPORTS

SAG Site Committee

Susan summarized the report for the SAG Site by the words "Things move slowly." Her report mentioned the glacial movement on the new baptismal font. The Priesthood Sunday (October 29th) and the Potluck for the Feast of St. Albert the Great (November 19th) were both great successes. The Audio/Visual (projector system) project is still in the study phase.

Facilities Committee

Jim presented a summary of the activities of the Facilities Committee for the past three months with copies of the Minutes for the Facilities Committee Meetings held in October, November, and December. In addition, he distributed a detailed and comprehensive packet of information from the Parish Council Meeting held at Our Lady of Peace on January 8th. The packet contained information about planning for a pandemic which must be coordinated into both the diocesan and the county preparedness plans. An analysis of demographic and economic Percept data was also included in the packet.

Finance Committee

Joe distributed the Mid-Year Report (December, 2006) detailing the Income and Expenses for the STA Parish. Although there are some small deviations of actual income and expenses from the budgeted values, overall the parish financial picture appears to be satisfactory.

Old Business

SCC Council of Churches

STA Parish has received an invitation to become a member of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches. By joining the area Council of Churches, STA would provide support for the needy and vulnerable individuals and families in Santa Clara County. Terry McCaffrey is a member of the board of the SCCC of Churches. After a discussion of this matter, the PSC approved STA Parish to become a member of the Santa Clara County Council Churches.

Bylaws of the PSC

Two changes were incorporated into the Bylaws: The Pastor's status on the PSC was changed from a voting to a non-voting member, and the consequences for a member of the PSC missing three consecutive meetings were altered slightly. The PSC approved this modified version of the Bylaws. The official copy of these Bylaws was then signed by the Pastor, the Chairman, and the Vice-Chairwoman and placed into the binder containing the records of the PSC

Mission Statement

Helen submitted the following Mission Statement for the STA Parish:

The mission of St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Parish is to be a community of Christ's disciples, on a journey of faith, living the Gospel message as listeners, learners, and leaders.

This statement was accepted by the PSC with the requirement that the representative of each ministry would take this version back to his or her ministry for consideration and recommendations at the next ministry meeting. Any recommendations or suggested changes would then be brought back to the PSC.

Closure

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 PM at OLR The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Each PSC member will take Mission Statement to his/her ministry for its consideration and suggestions.
2. Business and Operations Report - Chuck
3. Human Concerns Committee Report - Tom
4. Hispanic Leadership Team - Jesse

ATTACHMENTS

1. SAG Site Committee Quarterly Report
2. Facilities Committee Quarterly Report
3. Finance Committee Quarterly Report