

**SPN Pastoral Council Meeting  
February 2, 2009**

**Present:**

Fr. Saloy	Louis Arrigo	Stacia Bua
Dan Crumb	Rebecca Derbes	Beth Johnson
Mary Spain	Jean Turner	

**Opening Prayer:** The meeting commenced at 7:35 p.m. with a prayer led by Rebecca Derbes.

**Approval of January Minutes:**

Jean asked if there were any changes to be made to the January meeting minutes. Louis moved that the January meeting minutes should be approved as written, Rebecca seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Fr. Saloy Update:**

Father updated the Council on feedback he received on the “State of the Parish” report delivered at all masses during the weekend of 1/24/09 and 1/25/09. He said that he had received positive feedback, including a letter from a parishioner who stated that he was impressed with the report and therefore vowed to continue to support the Parish.

Father also informed the Council that the Parish Youth Ministry will participate in the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for the Hungry sponsored by Bread for the World New Orleans on Saturday, 3/7/09. He also stated that this ministry has scheduled a car wash during the 9:30 and 11 am masses on Saturday, 4/5/09.

Father also asked for final nominations for the Order of St. Louis Award. The Council discussed the list and Father said he will submit the final nominations to the Archdiocese.

Father also asked the Council for advice on the school registration policy. He explained that families are currently expected to donate a certain dollar amount to the Parish to receive “in Parish” tuition rates, but that many families are blatantly ignoring payment of the additional amount. Dan asked Father to explain the current policy, and then the Council discussed the current policy and possible alternatives, including service hours. Mary stated that the current policy penalizes those families that are currently “playing by the rules.” Rebecca said that she felt the Parish is being forced to take a “hard stance” now because the policy has been abused for so long. After discussion, the Council decided to advise Father that families should not be eligible for “in-Parish” (discounted) tuition rates unless the family is registered by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Father also let the Council know that Father Adams will be temporarily replacing a priest in Norco. Father H.J. is currently scheduled to substitute for a priest there for a period of only two weeks.

Father addressed the issue of altar server shortage brought up by Rebecca at the last meeting. He stated that the main delay in the training of new altar servers has been the Parish's shortage of deacon assistance. Father said he interviewed a prospective deacon several weeks prior to the Council meeting, but hasn't heard back since then. He stated that the altar server training will be a top priority once a new deacon has been assigned to the Parish, but he could not offer a firm date. Father further stated that he intends to draft a letter to the parents of those children interested in serving and outline the training schedule to them once the new deacon can assist with the training.

### **Jean Turner Update:**

Jean suggested to the Council that it might be a good idea to place the names of new parishioners in the weekly church bulletin, and also to list them on the church website. The Council agreed that this was a great idea, and Jean said she would handle the arrangements for having this done.

Jean advised the Council that Father signed the contract with Olan Mills for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary yearbook. She asked for the opinion of the Council on whether we should place advertisements in the yearbook. The Council unanimously agreed that we should not place ads, and also decided that addresses, telephone numbers and children's names should also be excluded from the yearbook. The next step in the yearbook process will be to set up dates for photo shoots in the meeting rooms of the Parishioners' Center.

Jean also advised the Council that the census cards have been alphabetized and the Parish database is currently being updated. She noted that some of those persons who completed census cards identified themselves as non-parishioners. She said a letter is being drafted to be sent to non-parishioners inviting them to become members of the Parish. The next step after that letter is sent is for Don Soignet to initiate his "door-to-door" membership campaign.

Jean suggested that, in conjunction with her work on the Stewardship Committee, the Parish should consider formulating and adopting a Parish motto. She suggested "Working together to better serve our God, our neighbor and each other". The Council agreed that the concept of a motto was an excellent idea, and her suggestion was approved as the new Parish motto.

### **Old Business:**

*Family Gatherings:* Rebecca stated that the schedule for responsibility of the monthly family gatherings for the rest of the year is almost finalized. She also suggested that an announcement be placed in the bulletin identifying the ministry hosting the gathering, and that a short summary of the ministry also be included in the announcement.

*Church Sign:* Louis informed the Council that he has encountered a hurdle in the signage project. He stated that there was a problem with zoning requirements, but that he was working on getting the requirement waived. He also stated that he needs the architectural plans for the church in order to ensure proper placement of the sign. Mary suggested that the word "Catholic" be placed in the name of the church on the sign.

*Issue of Holy Communion Shortage at Mass:* The issue of a shortage of Holy Communion hosts was again discussed. Everyone agreed that the situation has gotten better since the Hospitality Ministers have been giving the mass head count to the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The last item to be addressed is having marks etched inside each of the ciborium that are in the tabernacle to indicate the numbers of consecrated hosts left in each. Father said he will speak with someone about having that done.

**New Business:**

*Search for Fundraiser Chairpersons:* Jean mentioned that the search for chairpersons for the Oktober Fest and Winter Gala is continuing. The Council discussed alternatives for recruiting chairpersons for these events. It was decided that an email could be sent to all ministries asking for volunteers. Stacia volunteered to draft an email soliciting volunteers.

*State of the Parish address:* Stacia commented that she had also received excellent feedback on Father's State of the Parish address. Other members of the Council also said they were told that the presentation was excellent and was very well-received by parishioners.

*CrossRoads / Catholic Outreach:* This subject was tabled for the next meeting and will be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

*Church Restroom Sign:* Mary suggested that a new sign is needed for the restroom door in church. She stated that many people often ask where the restroom is. Stacia volunteered to have a new sign made for the restroom door.

Rebecca made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Louis seconded the motion. The meeting concluded at 9:45 p.m. with a prayer by Father Saloy.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Stacia T. Bua*