

**St James Parish Family
Parish Pastoral Council**
Meeting Minutes April 24, 2008

Members Present: Father Robert, Jim Fatula, Brian Ferber, Carla Gonzales, Hal Pawlowski, Ken Costigan, Nancy Welton and John Ingram Sr.

Guests: Maureen Wydra and Herb Maddock

Members Absent: Bud Lucy

Please note that all individuals who have the responsibility for action items are identified in **Bold Italicized Underlined Text**.

- **Opening prayer Jim opened at 7:15**
- **Acceptance of March minutes**
 - Minutes were accepted with two minor changes. Bud Lucy was not present and was reported as being there and a grammatical error was corrected.
- **Staff reports**
 - Maureen reported that we had a great EM and Lector training session with many new ministers
 - Maureen also reported that we may be back in the whole church next week. This is depending on the results of the moisture content and the rug installer being able to complete the installation.
 - Finance council will be doing pulpit talks about second collections to support church repairs. Second collections will be done every week except the week that SVDP collects. Father reported that we do not know the final cost of the repairs yet. Many of the bills were sent to the Diocese and we will be hearing from them soon. The approach will be to have a goal and work towards it using visual aids. Hal expressed a concern that we approach it carefully and Jim reported that the finance council has given it much thought. He expressed concerns about a second collection becoming a normal occurrence and recommended that this should not be a consideration.
 - Herb reported that SVDP has had access to their pantry since the middle of last week as long as they access it through the gift shop.
 - Father stated that he felt that the festival was a great situation for us all get to together and experience fellowship. All agreed that on the face of things it appeared that this was a more successful event than festivals in the past. Ken reported that we passed our health inspection with flying colors and thanked all involved for helping that to happen. Carla suggested that we might want to go to the carnival workers to take orders. Hal reported that the tear down of the rummage sale went really well. A couple of suggestions were made for improvements. The front area (dirt lot and pumpkin patch lot) should be used more for rides for curb appeal and there should be better signage for alternative parking (back lot and school). John suggested that we may want to have parking attendants.
- **Father's request, reaching out to the Hispanic Community (Carla & Hal).**
 - Carla reported that she has access to someone who can help us but she wanted to make sure that there was a specific need. Discussion followed that there has been a decrease in Hispanic attendance and Father was wondering if that was because we do not have the support structure in place.

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- **Right To Life (Hal)**
 - They have been meeting and are continuing to do so. They are planning a get-together with deserts etc. and a guest speaker on May 18th. They had a positive response at the booth at the festival and others who are involved at other parishes stopped by to offer suggestions and help. Hal gave each of us a “precious feet” pin which Carolyn had found on line and bought. He shared some information specifically about a picture taken in the past of an intrauterine abortion
- **Men’s Club Up-Dates (John).**
 - Hal reported that the majority of the Men’s group has begun to prepare for a Christ Renews His Parish renewal weekend October 24th and 25th. Because the preparation takes so much energy and effort that the weekly meetings for CRHP that the weekly meetings for Men’s Club may not be happening.
- **New date for working session**
 - A suggestion was made to meet during the week. **Brian** volunteered to bring pizza if we have an early session. **Jim** will send out an e-mail to ask us all to come up with potential dates.
- **Pat reported that Carla talked with the RCIA team and did a great job.**
 - Carla shared about her experience with them and that she shared information with them and also offered them our help in any way we can.
- **Annual Picnic**
 - Sunday November 16th from 12:00 until 4:00 will be the annual picnic. Discussion followed about details pertaining to the picnic. **Carla, Brian, Nancy** and **Jim** volunteered to prepare a presentation for our next working session working on those details.
- **Nancy shared about the National Day Of Prayer**
 - Nancy shared that she felt that we should get involved in this as Catholics.
 - She also shared how impressed she was with the Pope’s visit and also the great press we received.
- **Words from Fr. Robert**
 - Father shared a bit about the Pope’s visit and how he is such a pastoral man. He also went on to share that his perceptions of Americans has changed since coming to this country. Others have a misconception about Americans and he has shared with his friends in Africa about these misconceptions and how impressed he is with our spirituality and deep seated faith. Nancy suggested that we try to attain copies of “Responsible citizenship” (longer name but something along that line) to share with our parishioners. They are apparently very difficult to obtain but **Herb** will try to get some more copies. Several people recommended that Father Corapi (spelling?) would be a good person to watch on TV.
 - Father shared concerns about several of our families who suffer from autism. He had spoke with one of the parishioners who has a child with autism and that they were not able to come because we do not have the facilities and support structure to meet their needs. Father asked us to think about how we can try to improve in this area. Much discussion followed and the decision was to get the word out that we are accepting and open to all. Father will pen an article and **Nancy** and **Brian** will share some ideas or information to him.

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- **Words from Fr. Robert (continued)**
 - Father recognized how well liturgy and catechesis are doing in our parish. He asked us to continue to look at ways that we can improve pastorally. He felt that **Parish Council** should start to think about Advent theme. **Jim** will put this on the next agenda. Monsignor O'Grady will be doing the next Advent mission.
 - Father's order will be celebrating their 40th anniversary tentatively Saturday June 7th after the 4:00 mass and many of his brothers in his order will be coming. There will be a special dinner that night inviting the whole parish (fund raiser for the order). Jim mentioned that one of the finance council members volunteered to take in one or more of his brother priests into their home to stay for this event. **Carla Gonzales, Nancy Welton, Jim Fatula, Ken Consigan, Clara Acuna** and **Sue Klima** will be the committee to plan for this event. Nancy asked about the budget for the party and Jim asked about the food. **Maureen** will let them know about budget.
- **Future agenda items**
 - Review By-Laws after the change in mission statement approved by Father
 - Father has asked us to review the Parish Poll to see if all items were addressed
 - Awaiting improved attendance data for future review of Fathers challenge
 - Father Robert's input about Pope Benedict's comments
 - Building Committee update
- **Closing Prayer at 9:15 PM**