

**St James Parish Family
Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2007**

Members present – Jim Fatula, Brian Ferber, Carla Gonzales, Father Robert, Pam Hester, Nancy Welton, Ken Costigan, Ralph Wydra, Maureen Wydra, Hal Pawlowski, and John Ingram Sr.
Members absent - Rena Belisle, Pat Schay, Matt Speicher, and Bud Lucy

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

- **Opening Prayer** - Father opened with prayer at 7:06
- **July 26, 2007 minutes** were accepted as written
- **August 5, 2007 working retreat, Mission Statement**
 - **Brian** will send Father the minutes from the working session electronically so he can decide if we need to work on the Mission Statement further.
- **New members**
 - Father asked how many new members are needed. This brought up a discussion about the loss of Gemma and the seemingly decreased commitment by Bud. We will work on how to approach this at our next working session using our constitution and the booklet for guidance.
- **Date for next working retreat? (Sept)**
 - September 16th from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM Council members please put this on your calendars
- **Stewardship day reminder. (Hal)**
 - Hal will represent the parish council. If anyone else is interested contact Jim.
- **Reminder of October meeting location change. (Carla's house)**
 - Carla's address is 6725 W. Union Hills Drive. To get there go past 67th going west make the first left on 68th left and turn into the easement roadway. Their house is the third house west of 67th Ave on south side.
- **Gemma's resignation from the council. Action? Letter of thanks?**
 - All agreed that we should send her a letter of thanks. **Carla** volunteered to pick up a card and put it in the cubby in the office this weekend for all of us to sign. **All** should stop by this weekend to sign it. Nancy suggested that we ask her if she has any suggestions for us to grow. One lesson learned is that all members must recognize that this is a team effort and that no one member should make unilateral decisions for the group.
- Hal shared that Jim and Janet O'Reilly will be leaving due to a job change and will be gone on October 1st. We all agreed that this will be a terrible loss for the parish but wish them the best.
- **Staff reports**
 - Pam reported that they closed out the books for the last fiscal year and is now working on next year's plan which will be somewhat different due to changes in the diocesan requirements. She shared that with Rena's leaving there will be many changes but that Father would elaborate on that.

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- **Staff reports (continued)**

- Maureen reported that she has an assistant (Bruce Montgomery). He will be taking over several of the things that she normally takes care of. Maureen attended the Jubilee meeting and mentioned that we will be able to pre-buy tickets for the dinner (October 6th) and there will be a limited number of tickets sold (250 in the hall and 50 outside).
- Maureen shared that she was bombarded with too many funerals amongst other things this week. The hall has been painted in preparation for the Jubilee. Pam is working on all of the arts and environment decorations etc. in preparation for the Jubilee as well. She will be gone on vacation from September 6th through the 24th. Jubilee will be her main focus for the coming months.

- **Words from Fr Robert**

- Father shared that with Rena's leaving there will be many changes and she will be greatly missed. Father shared that he is very happy with the hard work and teamwork of the dedicated staff. He has been pondering different approaches and his decision is that he will hire a parish manager. He is hoping to begin recruitment next week along with a job description. He already has applications submitted but will utilize a formal approach to the process and will rely on God's guidance to make the final decision.
- He also shared that losing Alan from maintenance is a big loss. Also while they finally got a housekeeper they lost her last Monday as she went to be a court bailiff and are now back to ground zero with our priest taking care of everything in the rectory along with their many duties. An advertisement will go out for both positions soon.
- Father shared that the bishop said we could explore the possibilities of pursuing a new church. The bishop sent the Director of constructions who spent a long time with Father and the staff getting and giving feedback. He suggested that we take care of the floor in the current church in the interim and this will be accomplished as soon as possible.
- Father reiterated his request to look into ideas for bringing in new members and bringing back some who have left as he has asked us in the past. He suggested that we think about new things to bring people to be more involved such as the concert this weekend and the activities happening as a result of the men's and women's groups getting more active.
 - Carla suggested that there should be a way to get translations done for the Spanish speaking community in the area and already involved with our parish family. Father suggested that there may be parishioners who may be able to do that for us. Nancy suggested that we might involve the youth group with the distribution of any fliers that we might come up with. Brian suggested that the youth group goes out every year to collect food for Thanksgiving and that this might be a good time to do that. Ralph expressed a concern about getting permission from the local authorities for this type of thing.

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- **Words from Fr Robert (continued)**

- Father shared some experiences he has had at the hospital and how we can just by sharing the good news with others and then letting them know that we are here if they want to come to visit and worship with us. Carla suggested that we follow up with families that father comes into contact with at the hospitals using maybe a card or welcome announcement or some such thing.

- **Other business**

- Jim brought up that we haven't had a volunteer appreciation get-together in over two years and brought up the picnic planned in November. Jim asked how it would be funded and suggested that we might have a fundraiser to fund it. Ralph stated that you can't do a fundraiser to fund a volunteer dinner. Ralph suggested that we put it off until next year and plan for it in the budget. The consensus opinion was that we postpone it until next year as we already have a bunch going on this year and this will allow for getting it on the budget. However John suggested that we keep the date on the calendar and that he would speak with the men's and women's groups to see if they would sponsor a smaller event on that date.
- Several ideas were shared about different ideas for fundraising. Bingo was suggested by Nancy. A quarter-auction was mentioned by John.
- Brian shared about a single mom handicapped parishioner who had asked for help initially with maintenance of her house and today changed it to where she was asking the youth group to come clean her house and the reasons for having done so. The men's group will be helping her out with the maintenance in keeping with the original plan.
- Nancy asked some questions about Bocce. We have enough official sets for each court. After hearing about that she stated that there will be a Bocce tournament on October 7th at the parish Jubilee picnic. ***Brian*** will check his schedule to see if he can help out at Nancy's request. Nancy is expecting ***all council members and staff*** to sign up for playing Bocce. ***Nancy*** will follow up with Gemma about the details. There is a Jubilee picnic meeting on Monday August 27th at 7:00.
- **Maureen reminded everyone that any requests for space must be submitted in writing as soon as possible when you know to make sure that there is availability.**

- **Closing prayer** by Father at 8:55 PM