

CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH
Pastoral Council Minutes
May 7, 2007

Present: Mary Jo Brown, Father Marty Fisher, Mike Hetz, Dennis Klimek, Angela Krulls, Darrel LaVigne, Diane Marco, Liz McNamara, Janet Mietlicki, Mary Mietlicki, Kelly Millington, Lisa Partlow, Mary Ann Smith, Dick Tatro, Sister Sue Wiczynski

Guests: Judy Mullins

Incoming Members: Debby Botch, Chrissy Beaudoin, Doug Hampton, Wendy Marino, Rosemary Browne (Alternate)

Incoming Members not present: Cindi Racette, Jack Robson and Carol Eckert (alternates)

1 Opening of Meeting: The meeting was opened at 7:05 p.m. Vice President Darrel LaVigne led the reading of the Mission Statement. The Called to be Church Prayer was led by Mike and Kelly. Our visitor was welcomed and new members introduced themselves, telling reasons for their interest in serving on the Council. It was reported that the Discernment Process went well. Discernment for officers will follow this meeting.

2 Youth Report: Mary Mietlicki reported on various activities. About 30 people attended the April 20 lock in, with 8 from St. George's Episcopal Church. (Brian did reach out to the other churches in our cluster. The total amount earned for the Monopoly game was \$2300. Flower sale will probably net \$600. Baseball raffle, youth Bible Study are going well. On June 3 a youth rally will be held at Our Lady of Grace. Topic is Friendship and Acceptance. Earnings for NCYC are on target. The Youth Ministry booth at the Jesus Festival will have ice breakers and games. A member suggested accepting donations for NCYC at the Festival. Sister Sue explained that we just want people to see that they can have fun learning about their faith.

3 Review of Called to be Church Meeting on Faith Formation Opportunities: 6-18 year olds. One of the drawbacks in the process is effort to do a lot of things in a short time. At the Cluster meeting, they did get into discussion about two different forms of religious education. St. Edwards has the traditional model. We had little time to explain why we have the GF model. It is important what comes out of it, rather than conversation around the table. There had been discussion about sharing faith formation, with families choosing where they want to study while still attending their original parishes. We need to do a better job getting the middle age group to our social activities. Mike believes that the younger group is covered, Confirmation went well. Getting a building near Shen may help. The older teens don't have a faith community based social activity. One of the groups honed in on the important questions and did not try to finish. Mike summarized: Some good things are happening in the younger age group, more could happen in older. Need to focus on the middle group. Diane Marco had participated in cluster process years ago. At that time, churches did not want to work together. She is encouraged by what is happening at today's Called to be Church meetings. It was acknowledged that the priests of today want this to work. Their interest and their candor is really helping.. St. Mary's offered classroom space to St. Edward's. That would not have happened 10 years ago.

4 Next Cluster Meeting - Nourishing Adult Faith 40+: Mike went through the Desired Outcomes. Discussion of how we can keep families that are no longer young learning life long. Activities that we have at Corpus Christi were put forth: Womens Tuesday morning Faith Sharing Group (open group); new Womens Group that is fund raising but faith based; Knights; Rec program; Parish Retreat; Bible Study, etc., etc. How do we encourage faith sharing groups? Darrel said how amazed he is about how little people know about what is going on in their own parish. Renew groups meet in their homes, small faith sharing groups. It comes across that we are a faith sharing community. Diocesan efforts include: Yearly Faith Formation Day sponsored by Saratoga Deanery; Spring Enrichment; Formation for Ministry - 2-year process, which prepares people for leadership in their parishes and initial training of men for the Diaconate; Life in the Spirit seminars. Judy mentioned the Convening November 3. October 11 is Faith Formation Day at 6:30 p.m., a Thursday.

Discussion of the need for ushers. We should let people know there is not an obligation if they can't be here. Some people just get up and help. Maybe we need to ask more. Mike's Summary: It comes across that we are a faith sharing community. Father agreed about the power of asking. We have lost four head ushers through death at the 5 p.m. Mass. He asked from the pulpit and told them to meet at 4 p.m. the next Saturday for training. People need to know they are needed. Children's Liturgy is another area of need. The importance of people in charge following through was also mentioned.

5 Sister Sue led us in the closing prayer service.

ADJOURNMENT AT 8:40 p.m. to Discernment for Officers.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Brown, Recording Secretary