

CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH
Pastoral Council Minutes
November 5, 2007

Present: Chrissy Beaudoin, Debbie Botch, Mary Jo Brown, Rosemary Browne, Father Marty Fisher, Doug Hampton, Mike Hetz, Dennis Klimek, Angela Krulls, Diane Marco, Wendy Marino, Liz McNamara, Janet Mietlicki, Mary Mietlicki, Kelly Millington, Ruth Moon, Lisa Partlow, Dick Tatro, Sister Sue Wieczynski

Absent: Dick Cody, Carol Eckert, Cindi Racette, Jack Robson

1 Opening: Mike outlined the agenda. He only received the Called to be Church agenda, written, on Monday night. He mentioned that at the Executive Council meeting a question came up about whether we should be talking about items other than "Called." He then asked Sister Sue if she would give the closing prayer.

The Mission Statement and the Prayer in Time of Change were read

2 Youth Report: Mary Mietlicki reported that Level 8 Retreat for November 17 was changed from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. They plan to put together Christmas cards and baskets for homebound and for some children as well. Our youth are leaving Thursday to attend NCYC. They will present to the community on November 17-18.

3 Prayer: A prayer led by Liz was entitled "Help us to be people who live worthy lives--to be present through action."

4 October Called to be Church: The meeting was about the idea of popular devotion or piety. Mike did not come away with anything earth shaking. The focus was that the main celebration be liturgically centered. It was not as deep and wide as other topics. We talked about educating more with prayer. We are doing it here. It is healthy to recognize what we ARE doing. Also, we need to slow down and pray the liturgy in a meaningful way. Father noted that what the three parishes offer is a very rich prayer life. It is a matter of letting people know. A monthly newsletter on our web site, for the three parishes, was suggested. Communication is a key point. Here we have a Rosary Group, at St. Edward' s they have Charismatic and healing prayer. When we do set a date for updating the community, we might invite people from other parishes. Jack commented that this was the first meeting where we really opened the door to practical discussions.

There are guidelines in the Canon Law which stipulate the number of Masses a priest is allowed to say on a week day and on Sunday, unless there is an emergency. You want to keep the priests that you have healthy. It is very hard to get a retired priest on a weekend, as they are assigned. The three pastors have been asked to develop a Mass schedule daily and on the weekend. By 2009, there has to be a plan. There will be only two Masses on a given Sunday. The building of our church was because this was coming. It was mentioned that the 12:15 Mass people disappeared when we cut out that Mass. That is a problem to solve. Coordinating with three parishes will be a good thing,

Diane commented that, since we know this is coming in 2009, the sooner we start educating the people, the better. Others commented that you have to free your mind about the music at various Masses, etc. Don't just think about losing a Mass. It is important to get the congregation involved with decision making. It was assumed that the Saturday Mass will remain, but time may change. Hitting people with this information will be the biggest thing. The idea of people from the local planning group going to other churches for Mass had been put forth. In this way, we will be knowledgeable when we talk about attending the other churches.

5 November Called Topic: What are we being called to do as lay people? An example would be lay ministers to hospitals. Father commented that we have seen a shift in the last 10 years in parish life directors. There are 40 parish life directors in the diocese out of 140 parishes. It will increase. They are taking over duties of pastor. Education is needed so more lay people will take over as parish life directors. You will not have today's pastor. They are talking about ministers' degrees in Liturgy and paid positions. The priest would do the sacraments and counseling. The pastoral life director would run the parish. The number of sisters is dwindling too. Since Deacon Frank left, we have been going through this process. Our diocese has Formation for Ministry and Liturgy and Scripture study. We have many people going through the liturgy program. We also have a certification program for lay ministers, music, catechetical. Most parishes have their own accountant. It is the liturgy that is necessary. Sue noted that, because not a lot of people have a masters in Theology, they are taking people with understanding they will pursue study. Education has helped Luanne to select music, etc. This is a business, not of making money, but of ministering to our community. Jack commented that certainly parish life directors are also needed where there is a priest. But they will be greater in number than priests. If there were a resident priest in the parish, they would have a different title—not a parish life director. Diane, as a trustee, does not have specific duties, but assists where and when needed. There are no terms for trustees. Parishioners need to learn the terminology.

Mike summarized: We need to make sure that we emphasize role of parish life directors. We need to make sure that existing roles are defined. We have a lot of FMP people in Corpus Christi. The church will need a lot of lay leaders in the future. We should encourage people to get into programs like that.

Many people take a leadership role as a result of the retreat. It is a secret source of dedication. The youth should know it is an option to have a career as parish life director, etc. Our parish is particularly in need of deacons. Our two deacons are nearing retirement age. (Diane decided that the deaconate should be emphasized on vocation Sunday.) A lot of young people don't know that you don't have to be a priest or a sister to get a Liturgy degree. Doug mentioned the program that trained lay people to conduct a communion service in the priest's absence.

6 Conversation with Bishop on October 15: When asked, the Bishop said he did not have a plan, wants the Cluster delegates to do it. He will come up with a plan if we don't. Father noted that Bishop Hubbard has been in the forefront of having women take leadership roles. We are the first diocese to have a woman as chancellor. There is a lot of anger about the changes in the church. Ruth commented that parishes are not informing their people. Our local planning group is far ahead of others. This is a process that can work and has to work.

7 Doing things other than the Cluster: Lisa reported that \$2800 was made at the garage sale, after expenses. She also noted that we have not yet received name tags, after many requests. There are other things we need to address:

- A lot of people were not aware of the Memorial Mass.
- Where are we on our counts for Generations of Faith?
- Welcoming people back after Baptisms
- We need to be planning our future, but what about the present?
- The Council is involved in very specific ways in the workings of the parish. This makes the parish happen and helps Father.
- Sister Sue gave examples of comments from children and parents. Staff is looking at the sacraments to see if kids comeback. We have to get people out of the mold of just receiving sacraments and evangelize them.
- Agenda item suggestions are welcome, but it is important to represent our parish community in the Cluster.
- It was decided that our email account will be placed on our link. Rob Partlow will do that. Mel will be informed.

8 Town Hall Meeting: Mike would like to schedule another town hall meeting, setting the agenda so attendees have more input than the previous time. Doug suggested that we start leaking that information to our friends. Mike feels it needs to be a very thoughtful but very carefully crafted message. Father pointed out that there will be no lone parishes any more. We are now committed to two other parishes. Jack suggested setting up some ground rules. Angela asked if there will be one local planning group. She is concerned that people think we at CC are very closed. Mike asked that people email him with their ideas. The will of the community is important. Darrel noted that this will create havoc and we have to be careful how we get the word out, not start rumors. Ruth's comment was, "if you don't understand your obstacles, you will not understand your opportunities." Implementation is in January 2009. Chris pointed out that we have to be available, so that everyone is

not going to Father Marty. Mike would at least like to have the material planned in December, with a meeting date in the beginning of January.

9 Closing prayer was led by Sister Sue. (Liz will do prayer in December.)

Adjournment at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Brown, Recording Secretary