

St. Stephen the Martyr Pastoral Council
July 25, 2006
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Father Jim Tiegs, Father Michael Swanton, Jason Castor, Mary Elwer, Laura Bogue, John Klimek, Dennis Placke, Patricia Miller, Glenn Stenger

Absent: Nina Homan, Doree Kathol, Sarah Franco, Tom Peal, Tom Jorgensen

Call to Order, Prayer, and Welcome:

Meeting was called to order by Jason Castor. Father Jim led the group in opening prayer.

Review of Minutes:

Minutes were reviewed from June 27, 2006 meeting. Corrections were made in the minutes. Motion made by John Klimek to accept the corrected minutes, and seconded by Dennis Placke. The corrected minutes were approved.

Committee Reports:

Budgets/Finance Committee: It was brought to the attention of the council by Jason Castor that this information is only informational. The Finance Committee is responsible for the budget. Report by Glen Stenger. Copies of the 2006 Fiscal Year were handed out. 2006 had unexpected maintenance expenses. The monies collected for the Activity Center have a separate bank account than our operational monies.

Journey to the Center Report: Report by Father Jim.

The interior demolition of the Activity Center will be done by contractors due to liability issues. There have been many meetings and the committee is awaiting some action on permits and inspections. They may have to change some of the venting in the kitchen to obtain a permit. These delays are unavoidable. There is no plan on renting out the center, therefore no need to inquire about a liquor license for the building.

Development Director Report: Report by Father Jim.

Parish Center Renovation:

1094 parishners have contributed. Pledge reminders are sent monthly.

Sunday Stewardship:

6% increase in stewardship over last year. 106 more parishners using EFT for stewardship. Juli & Tom will meet at the end of each month to follow up on EFT renewals. Pat Miller has a paper written on Stewardship and Project Hope that she will send out to Tom Jorgensen and the Pastoral Council Members.

Feed My Sheep:

Archdiocesan goals rose in 2005 & 2006. We were able to meet our 2005 goal.

Intention Weekend is Oct 21/22.

SSM has their calendar, layout process/protocol in place for our upcoming stewardship appeal, but we do not have the theme completed.

Stewardship Planning & Development:

Copies of the fourth draft on a 2006-2007 Social Action Calendar were handed out. Social Action gathering on Aug 3 to hopefully finalize the calendar. Meetings for Planned Giving, Memorials, and Phone Outreach also set. Phone-a-thons to occur quarterly.

Social Justice Committee Report:

They are still planning on helping with Habitat for Humanity on the fourth Saturday of each month.

They are trying to revitalize the relationship with our sister parish, Assumption Guadeloupe. Ideas to revitalize include Mexican Dinner at SSM and an American Dinner at Assump.Guad. Also, having the grades schools exchange a class for the day. Suggestion made for our Pastoral Council to touch base with their Council to obtain an understanding of their wants and needs. Jason Castor to make first contact and arrange a meeting sometime mid-Sept. Those council members in attendance were willing to participate in the initial meeting. However, discussion was made in regards to keeping the initial meeting size small to better facilitate good communication. Suggestions also made for the School Principals to make contact and well as the Parish Priests.

Parish Staff Office Report:

Sandie Cieciora, Parish Secretary, remains on leave after surgery. Hopefully will return by the time school begins. Father Jim to inquire. Judy is filling in as Secretary and doing the Bulletin.

Unfinished Business:

Jason is not receiving mail sent from p.council@stephen.org. He will check into why this is happening. Other council members are receiving their emails.

Naming of the Parish Activity Center: It was discussed that this building be named after our founding pastor, Fr Gerry Gonderinger. A motion was made by Laura Bogue to name the building, The Father Gerald E. Gonderinger Parish Activity Center. Mary Elwer seconded the motion. The motion was carried, 6 votes to none.

The issue of *Special Collections* going through EFT remains unsolved. It was discussed as to whether it is technologically possible given that parishners usually give different amounts to each special collection. Glen Stenger will take this question to Tom Marble and to the Finance Committee.

New Business:

Pastor's Report:

Fr Andy will begin at Skutt Catholic High School the week of Aug 14. He will be at Skutt Tuesdays thru Fridays, and the rest of the time will be at SSM, with some unknown exceptions. Fr. Jim will be on a retreat Aug 27-Sept 1. SSM School begins Aug 21. Religious Ed. begins Aug 22.

Our diocesan seminarian count is down to crisis levels. There will not be an ordination in 2010. Fr. Jim uncertain how this will affect our diocesan, but possible solutions could be consolidation of parish resources and positions, as well as consolidation of parishes. Discussion was made regarding how to increase recruitment of potential priests.

Ars Celebrandi (the Art of Celebrating): There will more than likely be a Diocesan Survey. Fr Jim is planning on having several consecutive weeks where the readings and homilies will coincide with re-educating us about Vatican II. He is also planning on using 3 Minute Catechist articles inserted into the Bulletin.

Development of Parish support of separated and divorced individuals: It was discussed how to offer support to this group of parishners. Ideas were to go through Sr. Clarice and the Stephen Ministry, adding questions pertaining to this to the quarterly phone-a-thon, and putting announcements in the bulletin. There are Diocesan meetings, Coping Sessions for Divorced or Separated, already posted in the Bulletin.

Council Vision & Goals: There was not enough time left in this meeting to discuss this. After a discussion, it was decided to have the Council Vision and Goals as the only item for our next meeting, unless something more urgent came forward.

Email vs Slow-mail: It was discussed as to whether parishners would prefer receiving correspondences from SSM by email or by traditional postal mail. It was also discussed as to whether email would be cheaper than traditional mail. It was discussed to ask this during our Ministry sign up weekend or during one of the Phone-a thons. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.

Amendment of Section C under POWERS of *Pastoral Council Constitution* concerning identity of givers to be discussed at a future meeting.

Review of "Salt and Light" to be discussed at a future meeting.

Closing Prayer by Fr Jim.

Next Meeting August 22 @ 7 pm.

Follow Up Items:

#1 Council Vision & Goals

Development of parish support for divorced and separated individuals

Email vs slow-mail for parish correspondences

Amendment of Pastoral Council Constitution

Review of "Salt & Light"

Pat Miller, Stewardship & Project Hope

Final Draft of Social Action Calendar

Contact with Assumption Guadalupe

Special Collection thru EFT

Increase recruitment of potential priests

Ars Celebrandi