

SACRED HEART PARISH  
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 15, 2011

**Council Members**

Present: Alice Backes, Sheri Gloudemans, Dolores Kitzinger, Linda Muench, Keith Reffke, Mary Steichen, Jeanne Wilson, Mark VanderLinden, Fr. Don Zuleger

Absent: Bob Armstrong

**Others Present**

Greg Blank, Deb Buckowski, Dcn. Ryan Krueger

The meeting began around 6:30 PM with a brief prayer. The primary topics addressed included:

- The minutes from the last council meeting (May 4, 2011) were approved unanimously.
- Fr. Don introduced transitional Dcn. Ryan Krueger to the council. He will be working with both St. Bernadette and Sacred Heart.
- About 150 people attended the first annual Spring Fest, which was considered to be a good turn-out. However, one person was concerned that the people attending were the same ones who go to other gatherings and that the small group table layout discouraged meeting new people. To encourage mingling, he suggested that the tables be laid out in two long rows in future gatherings. Another person suggested that this type of gathering could be scheduled occasionally after the 4:30 Mass to encourage new people to attend.
- Alice Backes reported that Tri-City Glass estimated that it would cost about \$15,000 to install a keypad lock on the double door entrance from the parking lot. It would only cost about \$1500 to install one at the side door. The lock would allow up to 100 access codes. This type of lock is being investigated to improve security and access on weekends and evenings. Fr. Don also suggested that we consider installing a similar lock on the rectory since there may be plans to rent the premises to multiple parties. No other details were given at this time. The question of whether the locks could fail during an electrical outage was raised; this will need to be investigated. Responsibility for further investigation and financial feasibility will be passed to the Finance council. Alice will notify Bill Lueck of this.
- At the last council meeting, it was decided to schedule the "Planned Giving" workshop for 2:30 PM on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> as the first choice, and Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> as the second choice. These dates were determined based on other activities taking place at Sacred Heart. Fr. Don would like to open this workshop to St. Bernadette parishioners (it had already been planned to be open to the area community). Since St. Bernadette has a large planning committee meeting scheduled for the morning of Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, it was decided that the workshop should try to be scheduled for Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, with Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> being the second choice.
- It was decided that the next pastoral council (with new members) would be scheduled for August. At that meeting, the council will be responsible for planning a September meeting which will include both councils and all of the committees/organizations at S.H. The purpose of the meeting will be to learn what each group does, and to set up a common vision and goals for the year. It was also suggested that a parish-wide organization chart be

set up which would include all of the committees. This chart would be maintained by the pastoral council and passed on from year to year to assist in understanding what is happening within the parish.

- Papers have been filed with the City of Appleton to move the current Monroe St. handicapped parking spot from the south end of the parish grounds to the north end. This will place it closer to the access ramps to both TriManor and the church. NOTE: S.H. already has enough designated handicapped parking spots in the parking lot to meet code, but this one provides better access to the front of the church.
- Since this is the last meeting with the current year's council, and there is typically a long gap before the next meeting, the council was asked whether they wanted to approve minutes via email, or to wait to approve them at the next meeting in August. It was decided that the minutes will be emailed to the current council members for review as soon as they are written, but official approval will wait for the August meeting.
- Alice Backes received a booklet from the diocese which explains the upcoming changes to the Mass. Fr. Don confirmed that he is working with the Worship committee on implementing and communicating the changes to the parish. The Pastoral Council does not appear to have a role in this at this time. However, several council members suggested that the type of changes and an explanation for them start to be communicated to the parish to improve acceptance and decrease concerns which rise from lack of information.
- Several members indicated that they still do not understand what role the council holds, other than being an "advisory only" role. Fr. Don said that the role is to "understand what is happening in the parish". He also indicated that the diocese has a booklet which explains the role, and he will request one for each council member. He also indicated that he would like to have two student representatives on the council, with full voting rights. One should be a junior, one a senior. He was told that we had had one assigned in the past, but she only came to one or two meetings.
- Fr. Don requested that a "Pastor's Report" be added to the agenda for future meetings. He then reported that the staffs from both parishes met with Fr. Tom Long to discuss ways to promote the success and acceptance of Fr. Tony Ibekwe. We need to embrace him. He is a missionary, helping us out. Fr. Tony has 9 yrs experience. In Nigeria, he was pastor over multiple parishes simultaneously, and oversaw the merging of several into one new parish. Although he has a good grasp of English, he was raised with British English, and has an dialect which requires one to listen carefully to understand him. He provides a printout of his sermons, but Fr. Don also suggests closing your eyes while listening. Fr. Tony's delivery is more formal than we are used to. Council members reminded Fr. Don that S.H. is known for our welcoming attitude, and although we have many older members who may have more difficulty understanding his speech, printing the sermons will help. It was also suggested that Fr. Tony's experience be publicized in the bulletin. A staff member suggested that Fr. Tony be scheduled for all Masses at one parish for a month (rather than staggered Masses) to enable people to get used to understanding him. The council supported this suggestion.

The meeting concluded around 8:10 PM with a brief prayer. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

***Submitted June 16, 2011 by Mary Steichen, Pastoral Council Secretary.***