

St. Francis Xavier Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2011 8:15 pm

Present: Fr. Hennen, Randy Bunting, Sandy Cich, Randy Latzig, Wayne Shamla, Mike Trossen, Pat Whalen

Absent: Kelly Boyle, Rita Rasset, Michelle Studnicka

Approval of November Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes: Minutes were approved by members via email and have been posted on the parish website.

Open Forum: Comments/questions to PPC members by phone or email:

- Fr. Hennen stated that he received some comments concerning why the 4 o'clock Christmas Mass was planned to be held at the church.
- Sandy Cich reported that some parishioners were concerned that the Parish was not distributing a church calendar as in the past. The only church calendar available this year is the 366 day raffle calendar which costs parishioners twenty dollars.

Committee Reports: Reported to PPC; meeting minutes of each committee will be posted to the parish website.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Love, INC Gap Ministry: Baby supplies (Michelle Studnicka)**

This topic was tabled and will be rescheduled for the next meeting when Michelle will be present.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discuss articles distributed at the November meeting (Fr. Hennen)**

Fr. Hennen reviewed the two articles (Article 1: “**Is your parish in maintenance mode,**” and Article 2 : “**The problem with parishes: They do too much**”) and solicited comments from PPC members. Randy Latzig stated that the parish mission statement is based on the ministries offered. There were about sixty different ministries at the time the mission statement was created. It was suggested that a current list of parish ministries be established. Fr. Hennen reported that a summary of ministries has recently been prepared by Kathy Kuzma and Nancy Perisian, and that this list will soon be available.

Pat Whalen commented that our parish ministries should reflect and take on the work reflecting Jesus' life, and suggested that outreach types of activities be the main focus. Randy Latzig commented that our ministries need to address the various demographics within our parish community.

Fr. Hennen talked about the strengths of St. Francis Xavier parish and identified two areas in particular that people like:

1. People like the liturgy here. The music and the parishioner participation at Mass are a strength.
2. People like the school.

These two items are preeminent things that involve people at our parish.

Pat Whalen commented on hospitality needs within our own parish community. Parishioners visiting newcomers to our parish would be helpful. The new entrance addition will help provide a place for people to talk. It was suggested that a committee may be needed to address hospitality needs.

Sandy Cich talked about new parish members and hospitality needs. Sometimes when new parish members volunteer to help in various ministries, they are not called upon or contacted again. How should this be interpreted by the volunteer?

Fr. Hennen emphasized the need to incorporate the fundamental works of mercy in our plans concerning the subject of ministries.

Pat Whalen expressed concern about having a means to ask the general parish community what they want for our parish. How do we hear from the rest of the parishioners? A comment was made that a suggestion box might be a good idea. The Committee discussed the fact that a suggestion box had been used in the past, but it is not currently being used. The Council agreed that use of a suggestion box to solicit input from parishioners should be established. Wayne Shamlala agreed to search for the original suggestion box since he has an idea of where it may be.

A plan was established for the next steps concerning the topic of ministries. Prior to the next council meeting, Fr. Hennen will have the list of parish ministries (recently prepared by Kathy Kuzma and Nancy Perisian) distributed to Council members. Council members will then review the list and select four, five, or six ministries that are considered to be the top areas to focus on. At our next meeting (January 16, 2012) the Council will flesh out a plan to get the necessary activities underway.

- **Communication between Love, INC church ministry coordinators and the parish** (Pat Whalen)

Jim and Pat Whalen have accepted the role of Church Ministry Coordinators for St. Francis Xavier Parish. Their role will be to receive referrals from Love INC, link them with the most appropriate church resource, and help promote Love INC opportunities, needs, and events in the church.

Every church has a Gap ministry which is an area of special focus for that church. Our parish has selected 'baby supplies' (clothing, formula, diapers, etc.) as its Love INC Gap ministry. Michelle Studnicka is the chairperson for this ministry. The Gap ministries concept is not fully implemented at this time, and our parish's Gap ministry has not been advertised as yet.

The greatest need right now of Love INC is for a place to store donated furniture until it is needed by families. Father Hennen offered the open half of his garage for this use.

- **Development of a data base of volunteers** (Pat Whalen)

If the St. Francis Xavier Church Ministry coordinators are to link volunteers to referrals from Love INC, there will need to be a database of volunteers established. There is a Love

INC volunteer form on the STFX website listing a variety of skills, but volunteers have not been forthcoming. Fr. Hennen agreed to have a weekend, after the first of the year, when he will explain Love INC to the congregation and encourage them to fill out the volunteer form included in the bulletin.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:10 pm

Next PPC Meeting: January 16, 2012, 8 pm at the Education Center

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Shamla, PPC Member