

St. James Pastoral Council

Minutes

November 15, 2007

Present were: Mike Myers, Lois Campbell, Fr. Taylor, Joyce Rothermel, Mary Murock, Evelyn Christie, David Aleva, Karen Baratti, Jim Ruck, Anne Kovalan, Mara Sullivan and Patty Manilla

The meeting began with a prayer of thanksgiving from each participant.

Father Taylor remarked about the beautiful things he sees happening now in preparation for next year. The more we can make a united front now the better it will be in the future. We are strong in the upcoming merger thanks to the St. James participants and he believes we will make it happen.

Mike gave an update on the Mission Alive which will take place in April. Announcement of the merged parishes along with the appointed pastors and priests will be announced in April but not effective until Sept. It is known that the diocesan special commission on the Church Alive has recommended to the bishop that we maintain our three worship sites; St. James, St. Bedes and St. Charles Lwanga. Mike will give the parish an update at the 10:00 mass on November 19th. Mary Murock will give the same update at the 5:30 mass.

It has already been announced that 13 schools in the East will be merged, with one governing board. St. Bedes School is included in this merger. St. Benedict the Moor and St. Sister Thea Bowman Academy are not included in this merger because they are independently funded. Even though the churches will be responsible for funding the merged schools governing board will run the schools. The churches will lease the school buildings to the school board.

The suggested theme for the joint cluster retreat is Building the Larger Church in Community through Spirituality. Father Mele, Father D'Amico, Father Esposito, and Father Lauer were suggested as facilitators. The recommendation will be made that two people from each council plan the event. February is the suggested month for the retreat.

Our annual Christmas get together will be December 16th at Mary Crawford's home. Set up will be at 6:00. Everyone must communicate with Patty what they are bringing by December 10th. Mary will provide the meat and drinks.

Chair persons are asked to avoid scheduling meetings on the same day and time. People are having a difficult time attending multiple meetings. All chairpersons will have access to the church calendar to schedule their meetings. If the meeting is not on the church calendar it does not exist. Pastoral Council and Pastoral Council Executive board must coordinate their meetings with Father Taylor.

Non agenda items were:

Committees have begun working together; especially St. James and St. Charles Lwanga. Chairpersons are asked to begin setting priorities for their ministries in preparation for the merger. What things are important for your ministry to continue providing? It was suggested that in January the parishioners be asked to list the three things that are important to maintain in the parish.

The musicians from the three future merged parishes met and will be planning a musical event in the near future.

After one of the 5:30 masses, two people from a neighboring church were outside the church preaching religion and questioning Catholic issues. Some parishioners were extremely angry and frightened that this was taking place. We must remember everyone has 1st amendment rights and as long as they are not on church property we cannot do anything. If they come on church property or in the church we will ask them to leave; if they do not, the police will be called.

There is a funding campaign for the chapel being planned in the near future. The money raised will be exempt from the diocesan assessment. The money will be part of the Campaign for the Mission Alive with a separate bank account controlled by the parish. The organization handling the distribution of material and collection of funds for the Our Campaign for the Mission Alive will handle the organization for the St. James funding campaign. New tables, chairs, painting, lighting, carpeting and big screen TV are the proposed items for the campaign at an estimated cost of \$37,000.00.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.