



In Attendance: Jeannie Buckner, Scott Campbell, Tom Donahue, Tom Fox, Arelis Herman, Eric Kennedy, Jeff Sumeracki, Joyce Zagrobelny, David Hains, Dave Hynes, Teri Liuzzo, Deacon Robert Murphy, Deacon Louie Pais, Father James Stuhrenberg, Stacey Wackerman.

Excused: Lou Agosto, Christopher Tucci, Rick Bonen-Clark, Eileen Gallagher, Monsignor Bellow

Guest: Mike Carlet, Finance Council

Formation: Tom Fox gave this month's formation talk. We are all born for love; that is to say love is for everything, the key to life itself. The moments when you have really loved are moments you shared love. If you miss out on love, you miss out on life. Do all things with love because there is no greater gift as indicated in 1 Corinthians 13:13 - "So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Minutes: The January, 2006 meeting minutes were accepted by the council with one correction: The date stated for Ash Wednesday should be February 21st, not February 14th.

Finance Committee: Mike Carlet presented the quarterly Finance Council update, a courtesy to the pastoral council to keep us current with the overall finances of the parish. Overall, financials are slightly better than expectations. The offertory trend has increased in the last quarter, expenses are in-line and cash flow is positive.

There will be a meeting on February 20th of representatives from the Finance, Building and Fund Raising Committees, the Pastoral Council and clergy to discuss next steps in the Foundation for our Future. Also, a monthly financial report appeared in the bulletin on February 4th, 2007. There was positive feedback. Now that the process is in place, we expect monthly reports to be published going forward. Tom Fox offered several suggestions; it was indicated that Tom should forward his fund raising concepts and efforts to date via email to Lou Agosto who will attend the meeting on behalf of the Pastoral Council.

Pastoral Council Elections: Scott Campbell, Joyce Zagrobelny and Arelis Herman will assist with this year's elections. Tom Donahue will email a summary of the guidelines and timeline to them after the meeting.

Thank You Notes: The Pastoral Council proposed this month's recipients of thank-you cards - this month's recipients were Ron McAfee for his leadership of the Extraordinary Minister ministry, Tom Rider for the Altar Server training and Baron Fink for his dedication in creating the Why Catholic database. Nominating Council members will please forward a brief summary of their thank-you to Jeannie Buckner who will hand write the cards and mail them.

Commission Reports

Liturgy Commission: Dave Hynes reported that the next Liturgy Committee meeting is on February 27th. He will speak at all Masses on the weekend of February 24 and 25 asking for our parishioners to consider responding to the Lord's call to become an Extraordinary Minister. Training of new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion will follow the talk and is scheduled for Tuesday evening February 27 and Saturday March 17. Dave also noted that Ron McAfee, coordinator of the Extraordinary Ministers, has stepped aside after nearly three years.

Current programs: (1) A draft of the updated Liturgy Operating Procedures has been sent to all coordinators for their review. (2) The committee reviewed the program of the Prayer Chain Ministry and how to inform the parish community of the purpose of this ministry and how they may participate. (3) The committee reviewed and approved a draft of a new Liturgy Minister News Letter. This new letter will provide a brief summary of what's new in the 14 ministries since last reporting.

Education Commission: The "Church Through History" Part III will be held May 3, 10, 17 & 24th. Current programs being developed include a Spring speaker for a Friday night in the May/June timeframe. Fall speaker TBD. Also, a program for "Divorced Care / Blended Families" is very robust at St. Francis of Assisi in Raleigh and is being considered for St. Mark. This will be a long-term goal.

Stewardship Commission: David Hains reported that at Monsignor Bellow's request the committee studied the attached Stewardship bulletin for possible distribution to the parish. The committee will recommend to Monsignor Bellow that the Stewardship newsletter be mailed to individual homes within the parish for the first month only and thereafter to be distributed with the bulletin. Also as a part of last night's meeting several Stewardship testimonials were recorded for placement on the parish website. The testimonials were read by the same individuals who read them during the Stewardship drive in September. The Commission will be working with Ben Luizzo and Nicole Lockman to have these placed on the parish website.

Family Life Commission: Stacey Wackerman requested clarification on the one-page summaries for the website. We need to capture "ideal" numbers required for each ministry, publish profiles of all Commissions and ministries in order to peak the interest of possible candidates. Tom Donahue explained that ideally we would know exactly how many volunteers were required for any given ministry, based on number of Masses and number per Mass, for example. We would then count those that are currently registered and advertise as needed to fill any gaps.

Open Forum: Tom Fox spoke about sitting in the 3rd row one Mass and noticing that the collection basket was completely empty once it reached him. This sets a bad example as the basket passes through the parishioner's hands, especially for visitors. The more is visible in the basket, the more likely people are to give. While the DirectGive does take away from the amount of people depositing an envelope in the basket, is there a way we can better show participation? YES, participants in DirectGive have been told to offer an empty envelope as an indication of their participation but this is optional.

Tom also brought up the "Silver Shovel Plan," a plan that will accelerate us to a potential ground breaking for the new church. He has requested another car raffle be considered, but this time an American car will be selected. He has many other fund raising ideas, but was asked to please speak directly with Patti Fulford in the Fund Raising committee. Monsignor is aware of his current ideas.

Pastor's Comments: Father James indicated that Monsignor's surgery went very well - he is resting at the rectory at this time. He has to keep his arm elevated. Thanks for your prayers! He has the week off and meals are being coordinated through Jackie May. He will need driving help for the next few weeks. We are pleased with the response to the Why Catholic program. Father James also recognized a request from Stacey Wackerman to please consider increasing the allotted time for confessions.

Closing Prayer: Deacon Louie led the closing prayer.