



In Attendance: Lou Agosto, Scott Campbell, Tom Donahue, Tom Fox, Eileen Gallagher, Arelis Herman, Jeff Sumeracki, Christopher Tucci, Msgr. Richard Bellow, Dave Hynes, Teri Liuzzo, Deacon Robert Murphy, Deacon Louie Pais, Greg Scharlemann, Deacon Ron Sherwood, Father James Stuhrenberg, Donna Smith, Stacey Wackerman.

Excused/Absent: Rick Bonen-Clark, Jeannie Buckner, Joyce Zagrobelny / Eric Kennedy

Guest: Patti Fulford

Formation: Donna Smith gave this month's formation talk. Donna first related the juggling we do in our every day lives to a game. She then offered her thoughts on a wonderful book "Pope John Paul II - Man of the Century." In this book, the author reflects on how we must consider our priorities and find ways to more empty ourselves and make more room for Christ...

Foundation for our Future: Patti Fulford presented a report to the Council on the current status of the building fund deposits, outstanding pledges and calendar of events. This included the committee's attempt to synchronize all pledge periods by the end of 2008 (not including the 5-year pledges which will be handled on a case-by-case basis). She also highlighted the reduction in the overall number of fund raisers in order to focus later this year on building the church. "We are VERY close to building this church and very encouraged." Our current focus must be on community and our sense of belonging. We must take ownership and upcoming pledge drives will focus to that end. This must be "my" church - this must be "our" church!

Summit Group / Building Committee: Lou Agosto summarized a meeting he attended where all building related committee chairs met and shared notes to ensure everyone was "on the same page." What Lou took out of the meeting is that we are proceeding prayerfully and that we are "getting there," but most of all we want to ensure we're doing it right!

Minutes: The March, 2006 meeting minutes were accepted by the council with several minor typographical edits. They will be immediately published to the church website.

Pastoral Council Annual Election: We need to solicit volunteers to speak at all Masses during the weekend of April 21/22, 2007. Tom Donahue will solicit via email the slots that were not taken at this evening's meeting. Furthermore, we will elect a new vice-chair person and a new secretary at our next meeting.

Thank You Notes: The Pastoral Council proposed this month's recipients of thank-you cards. They were (1) Arlene Daney and Sandy Retort for their efforts decorating the church for the Easter season, (2) Elizabeth States for her dedication to the Linen Care ministry, and (3) Nancy McGahey for her last 5 years of volunteering as the Linen Coordinator.

Liturgy Commission Operating Procedures: The procedures presented last month for review were approved with a few minor corrections. Dave Hynes thanked the Council for their review.

Commission Reports

Liturgy Commission: Highlights from the circulated report: The ushers completed the 5-week Mass counts. Average attendance was: 518, 172, 549, 950, 519, 165 and 633 for the 5:30pm, 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:15am, 12:00noon, 3:00pm and 5:30pm Masses, respectively. Furthermore, the Spanish Mass now has 20 new Eucharistic ministers! WOW! The Commission has completed the draft of the Quarterly Newsletter, they are just awaiting content at this point.

Education Commission: Bishop Curlin has been booked as our June speaker and we look forward to having a wonder evening of fellowship and inspiring discussion about our Catholic faith. Babysitting will be provided as well as refreshments and drinks following the talk. By this fall, the Adult Education Commission will be in serious need of members (3 slots to rotate off this October). Please spread the word and ask friends to consider offering their time and talent to this Commission.

Family Life Commission: There has been a lot of talk about the issue of caring for autistic children of Catholic families. The DisAbility ministry has taken this on as a major goal to ensure that we as a community offer faith formation to these children. Donna Smith offered ideas and her full support and has assisted in teaching autistic children in her programs in the past.

Communications Commission: Greg passed around copies of the draft version of the Commission's operating procedures for review. He had sent this out earlier via email and asked for suggestions on content and corrections. He also showed a sample questionnaire that could be done in electronic format via the website. This form would be a centralized method of forwarding any communication from any member of our church to all the appropriate personnel for distribution. The idea is to streamline communications, NOT to add another layer. This ideally would NOT be monitored, but instead up to each recipient of the forwarded messages to filter content accordingly.

Community Life: Donna Smith informed the Pastoral Council that she will be stepping down from the chair of the Community Life Commission. She will seek her own replacement. She also showed us a flier for the upcoming guest speaker, Chris Stefanick. He will talk to our teenagers about chastity.

Open Forum: Jeff Sumeracki announced that he will be stepping down from the position of Pastoral Council Secretary after serving two years. He asked all present (with at least one year remaining term) to please consider running for this position next month. Jeff also announced that he will head up a group seeing to create a new St. Mark church banner to proudly represent our vibrant parish in our upcoming 3rd Eucharistic Congress.

Pastor's Comments: Just a reminder that we need a volunteer to participate in the upcoming Stewardship conference. Hotel cost and meals will be paid for by the Pastoral Council budget.

Closing Prayer: Deacon Louie led the closing prayer.