

# St. Noel Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

## Minutes for Monday, June 27, 2011

Meeting convened at 7:00PM

Present: Dave Barni, Ric Doringo, Kathleen Heer, SLW, Joan Mihalcik, Margaret Neville, Eleanor Reilly, Tom Repko, Fr. George Smiga, Bob Tomkalski, Mel Troha, Sharon Waltermire

Absent: Georgeanne Botek, Diane Cszasz, Randy Eveland

I. Opening Prayer – reflection and sharing on Mt. 11:25-30

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Erica Witmer, Cluster Youth Minister, spoke to us about her vision and challenges of youth ministry. Having one year under her belt, Erica felt that this first year was successful. The high school group kept their weekly Sunday evening meetings and the middle school group-now called PEACE-also met twice a month at Divine Word.

The teen group participated in a 30 hour fast, Christmas basket project, Living Stations, and other group projects. Twelve of them are now preparing to minister with Young Neighbors in Action in Worcester, MA in a few weeks. The challenge was getting more teens involved in the group. This will be one of Erica's goals for the coming year.

For this coming year, Divine Word decided to pull out from the Cluster middle school youth group and will operate their own program. This leaves the St. Noel middle school group to meet on Wednesday evenings at St. Noel. Erica wants to encourage more service projects, more participation by the parish community, and a Spring retreat. Erica wants this group to grow as well.

She is also working on Certification in Youth Ministry in Grand Rapids, MI at the Center for Ministry Development. She shared that one of her greatest challenges has been acclimating herself to two different parish environments.

She wants to see greater parish support of youth ministry.

She is working on plans for more parental involvement, offering brainstorming sessions at both parishes to address the needs of the groups.

She wants to build on what already is:

- Recruitment commitment
- Service projects
- Develop Retreat Committee

- Develop Core Team to assist with the Sunday evening meetings
- Recruit adults to speak with teens
- Involve teens 1x mo. At Sat. PM liturgy (prepared 5 teen lectors this year)

1. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Welcoming Ministry concept:  
Fr. George reported that when he presented the concept of another ministry of welcomers, the staff felt it would be redundant on a weekly basis since all are to be welcomers (not just the ushers). The exception may be for times when there are large groups present as at Christmas, Easter, First Communion, etc. We will continue the quarterly welcoming weekends that have been scheduled.
2. Update on PSR: the parent meeting resulted in no clear preference for day, so it was decided to have PSR on Wednesdays and include four GIFT sessions for the parish and the PEACE(6-8<sup>th</sup>) and CALLL (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>). Session time is scheduled for 6:00 - 7:30 PM.
3. Church Choir Festival. St. Noel Chamber Singers group did very well in the competition but they did not receive first place.

2. RETURN TO NEW BUSINESS

1. We discussed how we can increase awareness of St. Noel ministries. One suggestion was to have groups represent themselves at the parish picnic. Another suggestion was to spotlight a ministry or two every 4 to 6 weeks., perhaps inviting people to meet in the narthex. It was suggested to contact Deacon Dave Nethery for further work on this topic.

3. NEXT MEETING: September 12, 2011, 7:00 PM

- ❖ Prayer - Sr. Kathleen
- ❖ Refreshments - Joan Mihalcik
- ❖ Minutes - Georgeanne Botek was unanimously volunteered for this position, following the trend set for the current meeting .

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Heer, SLW

