

ST. NOEL PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES FOR MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2010

PRESENT: Dave Barni, Georgeanne Botek, Diane Cszasz, Patty DeJohn, Ric Doringo, Randy Eveland, Kathleen Heer, SLW, Alice Hinkel, Joan Mihalcik, Margaret Neville, Tom Repko, Fr. George Smiga, Bob Tomkalski, Mel Troha

ABSENT: Eleanor Reilly, Sharon Waltermire

Meeting convened at 7:00PM

Before beginning with the official agenda items, Fr. George shared two developing items:

- 1) Agnieszka Bieniek, our Music Director, received her Religious Worker Visa and will return to Poland in the near future to complete the required process. The only thing holding Aga and her family up at this time is the Icelandic volcano eruption. She may be gone for a month.
- 2) Interviews have taken place for the Shared Youth Minister position. The candidate that looks most promising has two more places to check out. A contract has been offered and the candidate will get back to Divine Word/St. Noel by mid-week.

Insights, feelings on PPC Retreat:

- Reaffirmed that we are “ahead of the curve” in making the good better
- Parishes have their own cultures; need to do what “fits”
- How do we create opportunities for people to have space to react?
We need to reach out and do it in a way to make people feel that they matter.
- Need to find a balance between *talking to* others and *listening* to what they have to say.
- Be sensitive to those who cannot be as involved as others in parish activities
- Empower ALL parishioners to be ambassadors of welcome
- People have come to this parish because of experiences of hospitality

BRAINSTORMING: What actions can we take to emphasize a sense of hospitality?

- Speak from pulpit, reminders in bulletin, offer suggestions (eg: try to introduce yourself to someone new each week...work to get out of our comfort zones)

- Name Tag Sunday
- Creating a “welcome space” in the narthex, marked with a balloon, something easily identifiable and less threatening than asking people to stand up in church. People who want more information could go there. Perhaps a welcome box could be there to collect contact information.
- Hand-outs...cookies, etc.
- Information Night...for introverts
- Spaghetti Dinner, have info packet and contact info on it for follow-up/further contact
- Offer church facility tours after Mass, so people feel more comfortable
- Foster a culture of hospitality with ALL members
- Find ways to identify new parishioners

Remember: SIMPLE and POSSIBLE is better than PERFECT and IMPOSSIBLE

It was decided that we would try the RED WELCOME BALLOON which would be positioned in the narthex. There would be one PCC member near the balloon after each Mass in order to answer any questions posed by interested persons. Assistance will be given as needed. Bob Tomkalski volunteered to obtain the red balloon each weekend. Diane Cszasz volunteered to create a schedule of welcome persons for each weekend. Alice brought in some Fair Trade chocolate bars and tea. It was agreed that these will be purchased as give-always for seriously interested persons. All agreed that there should be some customized labels made for these gifts...eg: “We, the Catholic Community of St. Noel welcome you. Please accept this as a gift from us. If you want more information, please leave a phone number and someone will contact you...” A form to be used for gathering information will be developed: name address, etc...call back, questions, comments, requests, basically asking how we can be of help.

Announcements will be in the bulletins. Presider for each liturgy will make mention of the welcome area and invite people to consider visiting it. The person staffing the Welcome Balloon will speak at the liturgy for the opening weekend. This will begin the weekend of May 15-16. Efforts will be evaluated at the June 14 PPC meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2010.

Prayer: Patty DeJohn

Refreshments: Georgeanne Botek

Minutes: Ric Doringo