

ST. NOEL PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

February 12, 2007 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Fred Botek, Anne DiFranco, Cheryl du Laney, Alice Hinkel, Mary Masse, Mike Mills, Karen Myers, Dave Nethery, Fr. George Smiga, Tom Uleplic, Sharon Waltermire

Opening Prayer: Anne

Meeting Goals:

- 1.) To review our recent meeting with the Divine Word Parish Pastoral Council.**
- 2.) To finalize plans for the Clustering Question & Answer sessions to be held the week-end of March 10th & 11th.**
- 3.) To discuss an issue concerning the Christmas Masses.**

1.) Review the Recent Joint Council Meeting with Divine Word

All who attended this joint meeting agreed it was very open and a good start for collaboration with Divine Word. We found it interesting that their demographics are very similar to ours and that about 50% of their parishioners are also from outside their parish boundaries. Their Council includes a member of their Youth Ministry, which can offer a different perspective. Both Councils are eager to begin working with each other on future planning. Fr. George will contact Fr. Woost about setting up the next meeting on where we go from here.

2.) Finalize Plans for the March 10th & 11th Clustering Question & Answer Sessions.

The purpose of these meetings will be to:

- a.) Educate parishioners on what we know about the clustering process; it does not mean closing or merging for St. Noel.
- b.) This is the beginning of a planning process with Divine Word on where we'll be in the next 3, 5 and 10 years from now.
- c.) This is an opportunity to craft our own future; we are not being told what to do, as in some other dioceses around the country.
- d.) Be careful about making applications in Parish "X" or Cluster "X" to what is happening at St. Noel (Different realities in different clusters, as some parishes have less than 100 parishioners so their situations are totally different from ours.)
- e.) Let them know we have 2 priests between 2 parishes and we are not under any pressure to go down to one priest at this time or in the foreseeable future, nor should this affect Fr. Tom assisting us on week-ends.

A loose script for Parish meetings, based on the above points, will be put together by Tom, Dave and Cheryl to begin the meetings. After the opening statement is made, we will ask if there are any questions. The 3 Council members present will answer the questions, but Fr. George will join us as soon as possible to address any issues we are unable to answer.

The Council members who will give the opening statements are
Tom Ulepik – Saturday after 5 p.m. mass, joined by Anne DiFranco & Giovanna Coccia
Dave Nethery – Sunday after 9 a.m. mass, joined by Mary Masse & Sharon Waltermire
Mike Mills – Sunday after 11 a.m. mass, joined by Cheryl du Laney & Karen Myers

Handouts will include an FAQ sheet Mike is providing, as well as the full list of cluster partners, as provided on the Diocesan website.

Parishioners will be informed of the meetings in the bulletin. A Council member will make an announcement about the meeting before each mass and Fr. George will remind everyone at the end of each mass that coffee & donuts will be served in the Banquet Center (Small hall or large hall) so everyone has an opportunity to attend the Clustering Question and Answer meeting.

Cheryl will arrange with Randy to have the Banquet Center set up for these meetings. The Saturday meeting will be held in the small hall after mass and the two Sunday meetings will be held in the large hall after each mass. A microphone will be provided for the opening remarks and to answer questions. All questions should be repeated into the microphone by the Council Member before answering.

3.) Discuss an issue concerning the Christmas Masses. Fr.George reviewed our current schedule of Christmas masses along with attendance rates at each mass to gain input on possible adjustments in the future.

Next Meeting: March 26th, 7 p.m.

Opening Prayer: To Be Determined

Refreshments: To Be Determined