

**ST. NOEL PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES FOR MONDAY, March 30, 2009**

revised 4/19/09

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

Meeting convened at 7:00PM

- I. Opening Prayer: reflection and sharing on John 12:20-33
  
- II. Continued discussion from last meeting regarding Alice's transition from full-time to part-time ministry. The decision is related to Parish finances, but is also a factor of the decrease in Parish size.
  
- III. A group discussion was conducted to relate emotions for the upcoming change to Alice's status.
  - Questioned whether this was Alice's decision. Group felt more at ease that Alice is at ease with the decision.
  - Emotional reaction due to Alice's transition as well as a reaction to the change in the Parish.
  - Sad about loss of Alice as a person to coordinate and communicate with many in the community
  - Solidarity with parishioners who have stories of Alice's impact on them. Image of a web and Alice's role in that web.
  - Alice: All have a responsibility to help maintain the web.
  - See this transition as an opportunity for others to step forward and take fuller part in church.
  - St Noel has had a very stable staff. Need positive experiences of those serving long and well stepping aside. We can and must make changes happen.
  
- IV. Potential for sharing an additional joint ministry with Divine Word. This was discussed at last month's meeting. Recommendation from parish staff was to consider joint RCIA ministry.
  - Share RCIA with Divine Word to reduce impact of reducing staff and improve ministry. Example of youth ministry: the joint ministry is more vibrant with both Parishes.
  - St Noel parish staff thoughts on sharing RCIA between two parishes
    - both parishes are committed RCIA
    - other items not as well matched for two equal partners

- David Napoli already familiar with both parishes and has past experience with RCIA.

V. The approach and rationale to approach Divine Word with this proposal was discussed.

- Both parishes will be losing people who run the program
- Larger pool of people will provide for richer sharing
- Emphasizes joining of Catholic Church, not just an individual parish
- More effective use of resources
- Support joint evangelization effort
- Reinforces an already good cluster effort
- Mutual benefit from past experiences of individual parishes
- Open to discuss the “how to”
- Early decision allows for a planned transition
- D. Napoli is open to idea, but the staffing of the joint venture is not decided.

Fr. George will write a proposal incorporating ideas from staff and pastoral council on a joint RCIA process with Divine Word and send to Fr Dave.

VI. Discussion of what way and when to share the discussion with the parish regarding Alice’s transition.

- Discussion should be clear that Alice is going from full to ½ time, not retiring.
- It was agreed that a general announcement is premature at this time. Groups that Alice is a part of will find out as replacements are identified.
- Relation of loss of ½ position to financial situation. This could be an option to cut expenses without stating what the solutions would be.
- No formal announcement.

Next meeting: What if anything to position the parish to be welcoming to those from closed parishes. Initial thoughts are, in general, to be welcoming and to provide challenges to be involved.

Next meeting: Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 7:00 pm

- Prayer: Randy Eveland
- Refreshments: Joan Mihalcik
- Minutes: Georgeanne Botek

Closing prayer led by Fr. George.