

St. Noel  
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
Minutes for Monday, November 28, 2011

Convened 7:00 pm

Present: Joan Mihalcik, Georgeanne Botek, Patty DeJohn, Sr. Kathleen Heer, Bob Tomkalski, Tom Repko, Mel Troha, Eleanor Reilly, Fr. George Smiga, Dave Barni, Sharon Waltermire, Ric Doringo

- I. Opening Prayer – reflection on Mark 1:1-8
  
- II. New Parish Council Discernment
  - α Thus far there are approximately 60 nominations for the new PPC
    - Ω December 1 is the deadline for nominations
    - Ω The discernment process will begin in January
  
- III. Review of 2011 New Parishioner Reception
  - α The council went through last January's welcoming event for new parishioners
  - α Overall the comments were very positive, but the council went through each part of the event to consider changes for this year.
  - α The points discussed included:
    - Ω attempts to more smoothly organize seating arrangements
    - Ω benefits of having a discussion facilitator **and** a scribe at each table
    - Ω review of written materials such as invitations, RSVP cards, questionnaire and agenda
    - Ω discussion questions were also reviewed to make sure they reflected the purpose of the event (welcoming)
  - α Some **changes** proposed for this year's event include:
    - Ω instead of a scribe at each table it was recommended that facilitators will encourage new parishioners to write down some of their thoughts to the discussion questions
    - Ω encourage and remind new parishioners to bring their questionnaires with them to the event
    - Ω emphasis for the gathering should focus on welcoming without any other intentions, such as gathering information
    - Ω have a list of St. Noel ministries available at the table
    - Ω provide some kid-friendly food options
  - α The various roles for the event were assigned among council members
  - α **NOTE:** Every council member should plan to be a table leader and facilitate discussion

α **DATE:** The New Parishioner Reception will occur on **Tuesday, January 31, 2012** from 6:30 to 8:30. Doors will open at 6:00 for hors d'oeuvre.

α About 44 new households will be invited to the event. (If I copied this correctly, about 60 letters were sent out last year; 30 replied in the affirmative; and a little less than 30 attended.)

IV. New Missal

α There was a brief discussion about the new responses in the mass. There were mixed feelings about the changes to the responses. However, many members commented positively on how the St. Noel staff prepared the congregation for those changes, noting Fr. George's letters in the bulletin and how some of the changes were gradually introduced over the last couple of months.

V. **Reminder:** The brunch with the new Pastoral Council will be on **Sunday, March 4, 2012.**

VI. Next Meeting: **Monday, February 20, 2012.**

α This will be the last official meeting of our Council

α Agenda items will include reviewing the welcoming event and possibly preparing a letter for the new PPC

α Assignments: *Please note that assignments were "shared" among Council members absent from this meeting. If for any reason you would like to forgo given responsibility, please contact Fr. George Smiga.*

α Prayer – Margaret

α Refreshments – Diane

α Minutes – Randy

Adjourned: 8:50 pm

