

Minutes of the OLPH Parish Pastoral Council
November 10, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chairman Mike Burton

Those present: Bob Hicks, Mary Fran Dolan, Erin Maiorca, Mike Burton, Kathy Heublein, Marilyn Jansen, Bill Lynch, Art Olivera, Kevin Shaughnessy, Char Sparrow, Jim Lacivita, Kevin Baudhuin, Larry Ball, Dana Hayes, Fr. Tom Hickey

*Anne Schank via telephone:

The opening prayer was offered by Char Sparrow.

The minutes of the October 20, 2008 were approved by consensus with one correction –Action Items: CHRP corrected to CRHP

Jim Lacivita noted that the minutes of our meetings were thorough and precise, and moved to have his comment noted in the minutes of this month.

Mike gave the council the status of Action Items.

Mike announced we will brainstorm action items left from last month at this meeting.

Mary Fran will send out a second question via email for information for Deanery.

This question should be answered and returned by December meeting.

First question-the response was good.

Mike reminded us of our additional unscheduled December 15 meeting.

Sub -committee re: new membership-candidate search will begin to meet soon.

The committee includes: Kathy Heublein, Marilyn Jansen, Jim Lacivita and Dana Hayes.

Mike discussed the Mentoring of new members.

Jim proposed “new members” meet 1 on 1 with “more seasoned” members.

Erin was asked to take the lead on this venture.

Members were paired in partnerships.

It was felt that 1 on 1 individual conversation would expedite new members coming onboard.

Old members helped new members find pathways, learn protocol.

Goal: Mentors provides information to new member about their community and other opportunities of the council to help new members make educated decision on matters regarding council business.

Members were encouraged to have a conversation w/mentor about which community you would like to serve by the next meeting.

Erin will send out a communication to this effect.

Kathy will make tent name cards for next meeting

Discussion on communities:

Mike would like to get them up and running asap.

PPC Council and Community Leaders need to reach out to ministry leaders.

The ideal time line for Communities to be enabled is within 6 months.

Community Leaders should plan to meet with ministry leaders in your community in January.

Setting a general 1st meeting outline will serve us all and set our direction-
social business is important

Conversation on direction for what we should accomplish as community
leaders

Our meetings should be non-threatening to ministry leaders.

A listening evening is a good start-ask what their needs are and how can we
as a parish council best serve them?

Community Leaders should provide an atmosphere for conversation at the
meeting.

Community Leaders should help to provide an area of communication within
the ministries of the community.

Community should not presume ministry leaders know each other or
understand each other's mission.

Community Leaders should drive home the idea that ministries are not
competing with each other.

Community Leaders should establish a foundation of what needs are common
to the ministries in this community.

Groups are inherently different.

Our approach must be thoughtful.

Ministry leaders might ask "why do we need you"?

Our answer might include that we provide a greater sense of parish.

How do we feel when we are all together to accomplish great things?

What can happen when people speak, listen and come together?

As Community Leaders we should begin our meeting with prayer and
introductions and purpose.

Community Leaders should explain that each group expands the sense of
OLPH as a community of faithful.

A suggestion for conversation during the evening would be that each group
should get to tell about themselves and how they work as a whole.

Fr. Hickey proposed that Mike send each ministry leader a letter explaining
the convening of community and who they will be hearing from-including
names and phone numbers of community leaders.

Father Hickey developed a plan.

Fr. mentioned that it is imperative that we do it right and are successful!

A letter of explanation written by Mike will be sent to ministry leaders in next
2 weeks to -explain what we are doing/why and include what the Community
Leaders name is and phone number.

Community leaders will set meeting date in January-look at
community/ministry calendars.

Community leader will set and send save the date and agenda to ministry
leaders (standard doc to be developed).

Leaders will talk about ongoing projects and next steps.

Leaders will ask what the ministry leader sees as strengths and weaknesses of
parish.

Leaders will ask what are our best practices/what goes well in your

ministry/where can we help you.

The Bulletin will include information as we meet with communities and the steps that PPC is taking to offer structure and communication between our parish, the ministries and communities.

Bulletin stories can offer narratives about what happens at the community meetings.

Mike began a discussion about Economic Crises and how it relates to people of faith in our parish.

Fr Hickey's article in the bulletin set our tone.

Thousands of churches/parishes/ synagogue are having the same conversations at this moment in time.

We as a PPC should question what can we learn from them-what can we adopt to help our parishioners?

We need to assess who we need to contact.

We as a parish should encourage parish life and offer sense of well-being and fellowship.

How do we as Parish Council wrap our arms around this issue

Jim offered a website [HYPERLINK "http://www.chapel.org/storm-hyperlinks"](http://www.chapel.org/storm-hyperlinks) www.chapel.org/storm-hyperlinks we can look at.

Our mission statement says we are a "family" –we should and must be taking care of each other.

Jim made a suggestion of offering a buddy system-1 on 1 –adopt a family.

It was noted that some people want to be anonymous in asking for help and giving help.

Fr. mentioned that institutionally, we are cutting back on expenditure and working to make tuition affordable.

Kathy led discussion on what can we do; how can we help/how can people get help/

The needs of our parishioners must filter down to the right resources.

Discussion included How do we as a family of parishioners at OLPH: have a conversation about this as a parish-how can PPC help to initiate take the shame out of losing a job

be discreet in our mission

know where to go

bring the ministries to the people

Mike appointed a Task Force to address issue and find ways to help.

Volunteers are: Erin, Kathy (lead), Larry, Char, Kevin S. and Kevin B., Mary Fran and Bob.

The council asked that the task force does not address only loosing job-it should also address:

Individuals who have been out of work long before crisis hit.

Families

Single mothers

Poor

Youth who are frightened

Seniors-fixed incomes/

Mary Fran suggested "Needs and Deeds" cards

"Available to help" on one side

"Need" on the other

Fr. Hickey offered that we might initiate programs/conversations on "how do people learn to live differently" or "how to get out of a lifestyle and just say no".

Suggestions included:

Sponsoring programs on "how do we do without"

offer soup/salad nights

offer canasta/game nights/inexpensive family nights at the parish

The Business Network is an important piece in looking for resources.

As a parish, we need to look at other parishioners as a resource.

The Business Network now has opportunity to grow and take direction-social justice/education/parish life.

OLPH Website is private-good resource to use to receive and give out information on what we can and will do for our parishioners.

We need to realign the website to help people navigate to job opportunity and help in today's market.

Pastor's Report

Mike applauded Fr. Hickey for his efforts on the bulletin information for how we can reach out and touch the needy and poor, and neighbors who need help in rough economic times.

Father handed out a report to be read by members at home (attached) because of the late hour.

Mike requested prayer volunteers for December 17 meeting

opening prayer: Kevin Shaughnessy

closing prayer: Dana Hayes

Mike asked that 2 people be assigned each month to be hospitality people to bring refreshments.

December: Larry Ball, Kevin Baudhuin

January: Mary Fran Dolan, Dana Hayes

February: Robert Hicks, Char Sparrow

March: Bill Lynch, Art Olivera

April: Erin Maiorca, Mike Burton, Kathy Heublein, Marilyn Jansen

May: Anne Schank, Kevin Shaughnessy

Kathy will email task force members to set meeting time in next week.

Appreciation Dinner for ministries was discussed.

Consensus is that it is a good thing for the PPC to offer.

March seemed to be a good time to offer this year given the Community Initiative in January.

Marilyn will chair and will begin gathering information and volunteers.

Officers will pick date.

Next meeting: December 17, 2008 Jefferson Room 7:30 p.m.

The closing prayer was offered by Kevin Baudhuin.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Heublein