

Christ The Redeemer Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes: April 25, 2006

In attendance: Fr. Sean Brian Caravantes Peggy Gajdica Wayne Kitchens
Doug Bell Ken Conner Arlene Hawkins Christine Marté
Stacie Bradley Mike Conroy John Huston Rosemary Potter

Absent: Diana Atchison

- Meeting began at 7 pm
- Brian opened the meeting with prayer
- March minutes were accepted and approved. Christine will notify Charlotte that the minutes are approved for posting.
- **Unfinished Business**
 - a. **Fr. Sean's review of vocations program:** Fr. Clint Ressler is willing to come out to help jumpstart the committee. The old committee is no longer in existence and Fr. Sean would prefer to start fresh with a new group of people. He would like suggestions of people who might serve on this committee. Someone who loves and has a vested interest in the Church and is willing to be an advocate in encouraging young people to consider religious vocations. Ken asked if there is a program in place where seminarians can be matched up with youth groups so kids could get to know a real person undergoing the process of discerning a vocation. Fr. Sean says there is not such a program; however, seminarians who work in parishes could certainly fulfill that role. It's possible that we might sponsor a seminarian for his internship in the future. We currently have no place for one to live, or any office space. It was discussed that catechists have a special opportunity to plant the seeds for vocations. We have a new staff member coming on board soon named Mark Dolce. He comes from St. John Vianney where he was in charge of their youth retreat program and was involved in the music ministry. He has much experience with youth and he has a son in the seminary. The A&E program "God or the Girl" was discussed. The program followed four young men contemplating the priesthood. All who watched it felt it was a compelling and well reported program and shed a positive light on the Catholic Church and religious vocations.
 - b. **Goals Assessment Homework:** Each PPC member was asked to jot down the various ways we are fulfilling our goals. Fr. Sean asked that we limit discussion to the items we feel need improvement.
 1. Goal B – Educating the Council
It was suggested that we bring in heads of ministries to educate the PPC as to the goals and objectives of their ministry. We'll invite staff first as they may encompass several ministries. We would invite them and assure them that they are not being "grilled". We need them to educate us so we know the needs of the parish. The PPC wants to build a relationship with each of the ministries. Doug would like to ask them how their ministry impacts the faith of the parish. Ken and Doug will work on the invitation letter. It would also be very helpful to attend the Stewardship meeting.
 2. We will visit our progress on the other goals at the next meeting.
 - c. **Guidance in Giving:** Fr. Sean met on April 7th and received their report. It was a very positive report. The bottom line is we can expect to raise 4 million dollars here. (They received actual commitments of 2.2 million from those who were interviewed.) They believe we can raise 5 million without much trouble. 6, 7, 8 million would be more difficult. Fr. Sean anticipates shooting for 5 – 5.5 million.

They received very good feedback from parishioners regarding the master plan; no real negativity. Fr. Sean met recently with the architect and Guidance in Giving. We may have to scale back to fit the plan into the projected price range. Possibly scaling the seating down to 1500-1600. The parking lot alone will cost over 2 million. The rectory needs to happen soon. Fr. Sean hopes to break ground in July or August, coinciding with the kickoff to the campaign (end of August). This will also send the message that things are moving forward. We are going to enter the 2nd phase with the architect, which are schematics of the plan.

- d. **Archbishop DiNardo:** Fr. Sean took the information from the report to Archbishop DiNardo on April 11th. They talked at length regarding future plans for this area. Fr. Sean explained to Archbishop that if we are going to go forward with the master plan, we need some direction from him as to what plans there might be for the area west of here. Will there be a new parish? A parish mission? A storefront-type presence? Archbishop made it clear that he cannot commit to doing anything west of here. There are far more pressing needs in other areas of the archdiocese. The immediate need is to build in Fort Bend County. He doesn't see anything west of here for 7-9 years – although he couldn't commit to a timeframe. He will continue to actively monitor the growth in the area. Archbishop doesn't want to build on Mueshke Rd. They talked about the possibility of storefront property in Fairfield. Archbishop, although not entirely opposed, was not enthusiastic about the idea. He wants to acquire property in the Bridgeland development area. The archdiocese doesn't currently have anything in that area. Discussion began regarding Edith Stein and the impact it had on area parishes. It was intended to take the pressure off of St. John Vianney and the Katy area. It hasn't actually done that. St. John Vianney has grown to 7100 families. The Fairfield community supports Christ the Redeemer and the master plan, but Fr. Sean knows they'll be disappointed that Archbishop DiNardo doesn't want a storefront. Archbishop understands their frustrations but says we need to find more creative ways to meet their needs. If we're going to be a "destination" church like some of the larger protestant congregations, we need to figure out ways to reach those who don't want to drive the 11 miles into Christ the Redeemer. Archbishop said the responsibility for faith in this area lies here at Christ the Redeemer. He likes the master plan and says to "build the church and build it big." Fr. Sean will update the parish during an upcoming homily. We want to tell the parish that "this is it" in this area which will help to get people off of the fence as to committing to the master plan. If they're waiting for something west of here, it just isn't going to happen anytime soon. It was suggested that Archbishop might write a letter to the parish, which Fr. Sean could read one Sunday.

- **New Business**

- a. The next PPC social gathering will take place Sunday, July 9th at the Kitchens' home. 6:30 pm.
- b. We will discuss the Parish Pastoral Council workshop at the next meeting.

- **Open Discussion**

- a. The visiting bell choir (from Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church) that played at the 9 and 11 masses was very well received. They did a beautiful job. It is a hope for the future that we might form our own bell choir.
- b. Today is the 9th week of DSF and we've already met our goal. We're the largest parish to meet it so quickly.
- c. Wayne reminded us of the Kitchens' Chicken party coming up on May 6th. It does not conflict with the benefit being held at Texas Tavern for Doug's sister-in-law, Mary.

- Brian closed the meeting with prayer.

- Meeting adjourned 9 p.m.