

# Christ the Redeemer Parish Pastoral Council

**Meeting Minutes: March 28, 2006**

**In attendance:**

<b>Fr. Sean</b>	<b>Stacie Bradley</b>	<b>Brian Caravantes</b>
<b>John Huston</b>	<b>Wayne Kitchens</b>	<b>Diana Atchison</b>
<b>Doug Bell</b>	<b>Arlene Hawkins</b>	<b>Ken Conner</b>
<b>Rosemary Potter</b>	<b>Peggy Gajdica</b>	<b>Christine Marté</b>
<b>Mike Conroy</b>		

- Meeting began at 7 pm
- Peggy opened the meeting with prayer.
- February minutes were approved. Christine will notify Charlotte that the minutes are approved for posting.
- **Unfinished Business**
  - a. Review of Procedures: Fr. Sean requested the outline of the Procedural headings be changed from alphabetical to Roman numerals. The revised list is attached. Goals and Procedures are approved and will be looked at again at the end of summer.
  - b. Promotions of Vocations: Vocation Expo held March 11. We did not attend this year, however Fr. Sean is eager to get a vocations committee up and running again at Christ the Redeemer. He is seeking help from archdiocesan resources (Fr. Clint and Sr. Pauline). One idea is to have a vocations chalice or crucifix that would rotate week by week among parish families. Each family would receive the chalice and a blessing at mass. A book of readings and meditations for the different days of the week would accompany the chalice, in order for families to pray more diligently for vocations. The Knights could also support us with a 31 Day Club drive, in which families would dedicate a day out of the month by offering their prayers for vocations. Stacie brought up the possibility of exposing parishioners to religious other than priests. Ken mentioned the National Evangelization Team as being an excellent resource for young people. Fr. Sean then mentioned that he would like to hold an R.E. summit, of sorts. Breakdown the whole R.E. department. How can we make a good thing better? What do we need to concentrate on with each age level? He'd like to take several days to hammer out ideas with the R.E. staff. It has to be a priority that he and Fr. Ryszard be more accessible to the kids. He likes the idea of a "theme" for the year as well. Vocations, for example. Other possible resources are the Scouting program (Ad Altare Dei religious recognition program). Studies show that the key ages to "plant the seed" for a future vocation to the religious life are 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. We need to do much more in order to present vocations in a positive light; as an attractive choice.
- **New Business**
  - a. PPC Training on April 1<sup>st</sup>: Those planning to attend are Ken, Stacie, Arlene, Diana, Wayne and Doug. They'll meet in the back parking lot at 7:30 am in order to carpool.
  - b. Overview/Highlights of Stewardship Workshop: Held March 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's Seminary. There was a presentation by a stewardship consultant (Eric McArdle) who talked about what

they'd done to foster stewardship in a parish in Wichita, Kansas. They were very successful at educating the parish and getting them to take ownership of parish life. They were able to dramatically lower, if not cut out, the cost of tuition to Catholic school. Their parish of 2500 families were able to bring in a collection of \$90,000 weekly. He discussed the "Four Pillars of Stewardship": Hospitality, Prayer, Formation and Service. He stressed Hospitality. He had several suggestions that went beyond "coffee and donuts". For example: make a commitment to introduce yourself to someone you don't know on a weekly basis. Pick a new family each week and you'll have met and talked with 50 new families a year. Wayne smiles when he distributes Eucharist and makes eye contact; acknowledging the person.

There are practical and effective ways to get the message out including a monthly newsletter, with 4-5 true human interest stories focusing on individual members/families. We currently issue a quarterly newsletter.

Another concern is how to dovetail Stewardship in the midst of a capital campaign. Fr. Sean says we might consider asking Stewardship Consultants in to check out the possibilities here at Christ the Redeemer.

Regarding Hospitality here; we have the welcoming table, the quarterly New Parishioner Welcome and also a greeting at the masses. New parishioners receive a letter as well as a personal phone call. Also our greeters at mass are doing a wonderful job in welcoming parishioners. Ministry Fairs are a valuable tool for Stewardship, however there must be a quick follow-up with anyone signing up for a ministry. All of these folks need to be personally contacted.

Stacie has noticed that many people are not actually willing to help here at Christ the Redeemer. Fr. Sean suggests that if someone is unable to help out, that we ask for them to pray about it. Brian will email the documents that were distributed, outlining the Four Pillars of Stewardship.

There was also a small presentation by St. Martha's in Kingwood, who are just beginning their journey to increased Stewardship

- **Open Discussion**

- a. Stacy McKay has ordered our nametags. Fr. Sean will follow up.
- b. The new phone system is in and working. It's not 100% yet, as everyone is still learning how to use it. In order to get an outside line, you must dial '9'
- c. The evening at Ken and Charlotte's home was a great success. Everyone enjoyed it very much. We appreciate them opening their home to us. Ken's experience is that relationships don't just happen; you have to work at developing them. He'd like to see us get together quarterly. Wayne offered to host the next get-together which is planned for Sunday, July 9 at 6:30 pm.
- d. Ken and John brought up developing an action plan for our Goals. When Br. Jim presented our workshop, he mentioned that when he comes back to evaluate us, he will be looking at what we have "done". Are we implementing the goals? For our next meeting, each PPC member is asked to look at the goals and write down what we feel we're doing to meet that goal. Make a list. This will allow us to track our progress and see if we're coming up shy in any area.
- e. Arlene brought up several concerns regarding the Music Ministry. She has received a couple of emails from parishioners. Fr. Sean stated that these are not parish council concerns. Fr. Sean's

response is to pass these emails on to Stephen. Concerned parishioners can always contact Fr. Sean directly as well. A discussion of the emails followed:

1. A parishioner is concerned about the annual robe rental fee (\$30) for the children's choir: a parishioner asks why, if altar servers do not pay for their robes, does the children's choir have to pay for theirs. Fr. Sean will look into the robe situation.
  2. Another parishioner is bothered by the changes in the music during the liturgy.; specifically, the music at the preparation of the gifts. Fr. Sean reminded us that liturgy is, and should be, work. The presentation of the gifts is a time of resting for the congregation. We've just participated in the Liturgy of the Word. Then we rest before focusing on the Liturgy of the Table. We should be energized to go forward. Fr. Sean also likes to sing at this time, however, the congregation's most important sung participation occurs at the acclamation before the gospel and at the acclamations of the Eucharistic prayer. (Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation; Great Amen; Lamb of God). He reminded us that change for the sake of change is not good; however, we need to get away from the "4 hymn" theology that so many of us are used to and strive for adherence to the documents regarding music in the liturgy. We need to ask: does this enhance worship? Does it hinder it? Stephen is working with the cantors and they are improving. Our new archbishop is concerned with, and focused on, the role of music in the liturgy and will be mandating several changes including having the priests sing much more during the mass. Fr. Sean agrees that education is key to helping parishioners understand these changes. A possible avenue would be to have Stephen write something for the bulletin, taking the spot normally reserved for Fr. Sean's letter to the parish. Another opportunity might be the quarterly newsletter.
- f. Rosemary brought up the couple of car break-ins that have occurred recently. Possible solutions were discussed. Additional police patrol; Purchasing a golf cart to patrol the lots; Parking lot cameras; Bicycle patrol; a committee of parishioners who would walk the parking lots during mass. Fr. Sean stated that the traffic officers are employed for traffic control only and that they will not patrol the area. Regarding cameras on the property: D. informed us that there are many liability concerns regarding cameras, which might prove to be a serious situation. Fr. Sean feels the best thing we can do is be vigilant. He doesn't see this as a front-burner issue unless it gets out of control. He will continue to address this issue with Leta and the staff.
  - g. Feedback on the Mission: Feedback indicates it was very successful. There were large crowds each evening. Stacie appreciated the fact that all meetings were cancelled for that week so that everyone could attend. Important questions are: Did it increase our faith? Did it increase knowledge of our faith? Do we want to have a mission every year? Every other? Prince of Peace is conducting their mission this week. Rosemary has heard that the speaker is wonderful.
  - h. Wayne asked for an update on Guidance in Giving: Fr. Sean is meeting with them on April 7<sup>th</sup> to get a preliminary report and then he meets with Archbishop Di Nardo on April 11<sup>th</sup> to present the information. Fr. Sean will update us at the next meeting.
  - i. Doug brought up neighborhood ministries. Stewardship will be addressing this issue as well at their meeting tomorrow. Fr. Sean said a lot will depend on the outcome of his meeting with Archbishop Di Nardo.
- Brian volunteered for prayer at the next meeting.
  - Peggy offered the closing prayer.
  - Meeting adjourned 9:00 pm