

St. Joseph Parish Council  
Meeting Minutes  
April 22, 2008

The Parish Council of St. Joseph Church, Shelbyville, Indiana, met on April 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Religious Education Office. Members present were Tom Gruesser, Noell Krughoff, Rosemary Dean, Angela Gill, Carla Antle, Judy Boring, Lisa Lewis and Father Chris Craig.

The opening prayer was led by Tom Gruesser.

Tom Gruesser moved, seconded by Judy Boring, that the consent agenda be approved with one clarification. The clarification is to the minutes and is that the Arch Diocese dictates the amount of Father Tom's salary as sacramental minister and that said salary is raised through the collection at the parish. The motion carried.

The minutes from February 19, 2008 were approved.

The Hispanic ministry was discussed. It was noted that father Tom Fox is hired by Father Chris and is not appointed by the Arch Diocese. It was also noted that the ministry is not paying for itself and that the parishes are not receiving guidance from the Arch Diocese regarding the goals of the Hispanic ministry. Specifically, are the Hispanics just renting from the parish or do they intend to integrate with the parishes? Each parish seems to be doing things differently with different goals. It was noted that it is important to understand the feelings of our local Hispanics and whether or not they intend to integrate with the parish as it exists now. It was also noted that funding for the Hispanic ministry might become difficult with the recent increase in Father Tom's salary as mandated by the Arch Diocese.

Father Chris stated that he would very much like to hire someone to help with the Hispanic ministry at St. Joe. He noted that it is not in the Hispanic culture to attend meetings like those of the Parish Council and that Fred and Tom would like to end their duties as "doorkeepers" during the Hispanic mass. He noted that, in general, Hispanics do not see themselves as members of a particular parish with that parish serving the needs of its members. Rather, they see themselves first as Catholics with any Catholic church being open to all Catholics for any purpose regardless of their parish. It was noted that this is pretty much in direct opposition to the Arch Diocese, who discourages "national" churches, i.e., Italian Catholic churches, German Catholic churches, etc. Regardless, the Hispanics do not see themselves as belonging to one parish, which makes administration like signing off on baptismal records, marriage certificates, etc. difficult.

Discussion occurred about hiring someone to help manage the Hispanic community and funding their salary through a grant. It was noted that the work that goes into preparing a grant application frequently outweighs the results. Father stated that he has a good

contact through James Valez and that James may be agreeable to working as a St. Joe employee for about ten hours per week to open and close the church for the Hispanic mass, to help with scheduling, and to help maintain the sacramental records. If he would accept the position, James would also be an ex-officio member of the Parish Council. Father stated that he would check with James regarding his availability. James already has a full-time job, which may limit his time.

Noell stated that the music ministry has met with her and the liturgy committee and all seems to be going well. They are working to coordinate their schedules.

Judy, Carla and Lisa reported that the announcement regarding nominations for Parish Council did not appear in the bulletin as was expected. They will try again for the next week. In the meantime, Father will make an announcement that nominations are being accepted. Nominations from Parish Council were made, including, Chris Lux, Angie File, Mary Cross, Betty Barber, Polly Lancaster and Nick Furiak. Council members will call to inquire if these people are interested in running as follows:

Chris Lux: Judy Boring  
Angie File: Lisa Lewis  
Mary Cross: Carla Antle  
Betty Barber: Judy Boring  
Polly Lancaster: Rosemary Dean  
Nick Furiak: Judy Boring.

Virtus was tabled until the next meeting.

It was also reported that most parishes have a “three step tuition rate” for Catholic non-parishioners with children enrolled in the parish school. The “three step rate” works as follows: Catholic parish members pay the lowest rate. Catholic non-parishioners pay a rate that is slightly higher, and non-Catholics pay the highest rate of all. The parish who has members attending the church (St. Vincent’s in our case) also helps subsidize the school, usually on a student-by-student basis.

There was no new business.

Father led Council in a closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Gill, Secretary