

St. Joseph Parish Council
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2007

The Parish Council of St. Joseph Church, Shelbyville, Indiana, met on February 29, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Religious Education Office. Members present were Jen Deiser, Tom Gruesser, Rosemary Dean, Lisa Lewis, Judy Boring, Carla Antle, and Angela Gill. Also present were Leigh Ann Mills, Father Tom Fox, Vince Sanders and Teri Mackey.

The meeting was opened with a prayer.

Jen Deiser gave a brief report regarding the school commission. She spoke with Joan Livingston (principal) who gave her a copy of a letter that was sent to St. Vincent's regarding school tuition for St. Vincent's parish students at St. Joseph's school. Joan and Dennis Gilles will visit St. Vincent's.

Father Tom Fox came to the meeting to discuss the Hispanic ministry at St. Joseph's. He is the sacramental minister for the Hispanic ministry in Batesville, Bartholomew County and St. Joseph's. A sacramental minister works under the authority of the pastor at the churches where he ministers. He gave a history of the Hispanic ministry at St. Joe. He noted that the current Spanish mass is at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday and generally two-thirds of the church is filled. They have an RCIA group of 23 or so and a youth and prayer groups are in the start-up stages. He meets once a month with leaders in the Hispanic community and to do a Spanish bulletin. Christina Luna coordinates REP with Pam McClure.

Father Tom expressed some concerns that the Hispanic ministry cannot have a key to the church and that they are now expected to work through Parish Council. They would like to give \$10.00 each week to a musician who travels from Indianapolis to play at mass and are somewhat unhappy about paying \$25.00 each week to someone to lock and unlock the church for mass. They are currently using the cafeteria for youth group and the church for prayer group and have applied for a grant to hire a bi-lingual helper but have not received word yet. They would also like to use some office space. There are concerns that being undocumented may be a barrier to more integration. Other integration barriers were discussed, and Father Tom indicated that language is the biggest. He noted that most Hispanics will only attend Spanish speaking mass. He asked that we be patient with the Hispanics as it takes them a good period of time to adjust to American life. He also noted that many are not particularly interested in integration, preferring instead to continue practice the Hispanic culture here. He stated that they need to develop their own leadership and that this also takes time. It became apparent that there is a huge gap in communication between the Hispanic ministry and Parish Council as many of the issues Father Tom brought to the table have been concerns among the Hispanics for quite some time and were complete news to Parish Council. It was also noted that Father Tom's salary comes from the parish collection as opposed to from the

Arch Diocese. Parish Council will take this up again at their next meeting. Father Tom left the meeting.

Spring Festival progress was discussed and it appears that while things were late getting started, that they are underway now.

The agenda for the summit (3/15, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., cafeteria) was discussed. First and foremost, it was noted, to the agreement of all, that all church and school staff should be at the summit. This has been a general oversight for years.

The agenda was discussed and will be as follows:

9:00-9:15 Overview of Goals: Lisa Lewis

9:15-9:45 Explain New Role of Parish Council: Tom Gruesser (Jen will create hand-out)

9:45-10:15 Explain Proposed Liaison Structure: Angela Gill

10:15–10:30 Break: Snacks by Rosemary and Judy!

10:30-11:30 Small Group Break Outs

Pros/Cons of Parish Council Role & Liaison Structure

What questions come to mind?

How would YOU answer these questions?

11:30-12:00 Small Group Presentations

12:00 Wrap up

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Gill, Secretary