

St. Joseph Parish Council  
Meeting Minutes  
November 27, 2007

The Parish Council of St. Joseph Church, Shelbyville, Indiana, met on November 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Religious Education Office. Members present were Tom Gruesser, Judy Boring, Carla Antle, Lisa Lewis, Rosemary Dean, Jen Deiser, Noell Krughoff, and Angela Gill. Father Chris Craig was also present.

Father Chris opened the meeting with a prayer.

The council agreed to accept the October 22, 2007 minutes as written.

President Tom Gruesser stated that the agenda for the meeting would be to go over the liaison reports. He also stated that Fr. Chris had to leave the meeting early and had a few points he wanted to cover before doing so. They were as follows:

- The Pleak Family funeral is scheduled to be held at St. Joe even though the family were not members or Catholic. However, Kimberly Lee Pleak, one of the deceased family members, has a daughter, Maureen, who is in the fifth grade at St. Joe. Fr. Chris and Kim had been discussing Maureen's baptism prior to the accident and planned to finalize it after Thanksgiving. Also, St. Joe is the only church in the community large enough to accommodate the anticipated crowd. Mass will not be said. The fifth grade class will sing. All felt that this would be fine and would probably be very helpful to Maureen.
- Father asked that the council meet again in December. The date of December 18 at 7:00 p.m. was chosen.
- He announced the Vernon Sharp has resigned from the council.
- He asked that the council consider canceling the Snow Ball Dinner/Dance due to dwindling interest and the fact that the event has lost money for the past couple of years. It was noted that the purpose of the Dinner/Dance is not to raise funds but simply to have fun. He suggested that other opportunities for fellowship that would be less likely to lose money be considered.
- He asked that the council consider coffee and donuts after the masses and if so, how it should be handled.
- He stated that a parish the size of St. Joseph's usually has a staff person to take care of adult education and sacrament preparation. This may be something the council should consider.

- He noted that organ repairs are coming up and could be as high as \$200,000. Curtis Davies, a parish member and volunteer organist, has done some research on what is needed. He will make a presentation at the January 22, 2008 parish council meeting.
- He would like for the council to consider how to interface with the Hispanic community.
- He noted that chairmen for the 2008 Spring Festival do not seem to be in place.

Liaison reports were reviewed.

Noell Krughoff gave the spiritual life report. She noted that she had accidentally skipped pastoral care, but that she had an opportunity to discuss this very briefly with Fr. Chris before the meeting. He noted that he is covering this himself and could use help. Highlights of Noell's report included that there is some confusion regarding the differences between St. Anne's Altar Society and the Daughters of Isabella. She also noted that the music ministry is very loosely structured, which is resulting in confusion and some strain among the volunteers. The council discussed how they could be of help to the music ministry without micromanaging or stepping in where may not be wanted. It was suggested that perhaps the liturgy committee, music ministry and Emily could meet to set up a more organized structure. Noell agreed to try to facilitate this meeting.

Lisa Lewis gave the parish planning report. She gave some history and noted that the purpose of the planning committee is to establish a consistent system as opposed to just "winging it" year after year. She noted that the stewardship committee seems eager to work but is not sure exactly what they should do. She stated that when the committee was formed the idea was for them to maintain a database of volunteers and to match those volunteers with parish jobs as needed. She also stated that there is some concern among the youth group volunteers that some of the St. Joe youth are going to youth groups at other churches. Her report also indicated that perhaps ties with St. Vincent's should be reinforced since they would probably become a bigger part of St. Joe once Fr. Landerwerlyn retires.

Jen Deicer gave the school commission report. She noted that she had spoken with principal Joan Livingston right as Joan's father was becoming seriously ill and just prior to Joan leaving town. She stated that the conversation was rushed for this reason and that she and Joan had plans to talk further later. She will also get in touch with Dennis Gilles.

Judy Boring gave the finance report. She spoke with Robin Gahimer who told her that the bookkeeping is in order. He noted that the biggest problem facing the finance committee is tuition delinquency. There was some discussion regarding the tuition paid by members of St. Vincent's who send their children to St. Joe. They are currently paying the parishioner rate.

Carla Antle gave the faith formation report and found out that the contact for this is LuAnn Mason.

Rosemary Dean gave the parish life and outreach report. She reported that her contact person, Terry Runnebohm, indicated that this runs smoothly and is going well.

Other business was as follows:

At the next meeting, chairs for each commission will be considered.

The council agreed to turn over finding chairs for the 2008 spring festival to the Stewardship Committee. Lisa Lewis will call them.

There was some discussion regarding coffee and donuts after the masses. It was determined that the long-range planning committee should handle this.

The council agreed to cancel the Snow Ball Dinner/Dance.

At the January meeting, council members will draw straws for length of terms. It was noted that Lisa Lewis and Judy Boring have been on the council the longest and will probably take shorter terms without drawing straws.

Angela Gill will ask Fr. Chris what he wants to do regarding finding a replacement for Vernon Sharp, specifically if he would like for her to write an announcement for the bulletin.

The next meeting will be December 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory.

Judy Boring led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

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Angela Gill, Secretary

November 14, 2007

Parish Planning Committee Report, Submitted by Lisa Lewis

Parish Planning Committee met to brainstorm some ideas for projects that might be beneficial for the parish.

- Annual Parish Leadership Summit
  - Important to look back at progress and changes made since the first summit
  - Biggest issue at that time was communication and summits help with communicating needs and goals in parish leadership
  - Would like for parish council to lead with support of planning committee
- Stewardship Committee
  - This committee is struggling and in need of guidance
  - Because planning committee had the original vision for this ministry, they could possibly work with stewardship committee to re-gain their focus and develop some activities to improve volunteerism in the parish
- Latino Community
  - Committee feels there is a need for more integration and/or mutual understanding between this ministry and the larger parish community
  - They are interested in working to improve communication between Latino ministry and others
- Integrated Tech Committee
  - The development of an IT committee was suggested in first summit, but was not a priority at the time
  - Increasing tech needs of church, i.e. the volunteer database, and potential for a solid computer system to streamline church business and communication
  - Many computer savvy parishioners and could alleviate the need for paid consultants
- Youth Group
  - Concerns that many of parish youth are going elsewhere for youth group

- Possibility of planning 2<sup>nd</sup> youth summit (last one was 2 years ago) to be held during REP time
  - Potential need for youth group for elementary age kids
- St. Vincent
  - Need to begin working with and/or communicating with St. Vincent Parish Leadership

School Commission Liaison Report: Jen Dieser

PTO--Chairperson--Angie File 392-0618

Co-Chairperson--Elizabeth Duffy

Secretary--Susan Furgeson

Treasurer--Susan Reinhart

Purpose--to promote human and material assistance to the teachers and the school administration.

Tae Kwon Do

Teachers--Tom and Emmie O'Connor--398-7739

Income is donated to the school for tuition assistance.

School Ministry--Joan Livingston--Principal

Secretary--Kathleen Simpson

Fifth Grade Teacher/Stand-in Principal--Mary Endris

Afterschool Care--Cindy Wickizer

I think all the teachers and staff members would be considered school ministry.

Goals/School Improvement Plan

1. All students will improve written language across the curriculum
2. All students will improve math computation.
3. The students will show more respect for each other.

The School Commission will be helping with a goal for the School Improvement Plan this year--we will be focusing on student retention and increased enrollment.

School Commission President--Dennis Gilles

Vice President--Rick Walke

Secretary--Dan Kenkel

Angie File, Stephanie Amos and Mike Hall

Contact: Joan Livingston 398-4202

Parish Council Report  
Noell Krughoff, Spiritual Life Liaison  
November 20, 2007

#### Liturgy Committee

Contact was Patricia Cassidy, Chair

Pat's thoughts/comments:

- § Subcommittee coordinators are doing their jobs well
- § Things in general are going well
- § Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month
- § Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for Christmas
- § More volunteers are needed in all areas

#### Music Ministries

Contacts were Marilyn Branstetter, Ginny Bogemann, Loretta Eckstein, Emily McDuffee, Nancy Beyer, and Curtis Davies (left message)

My thoughts/comments:

- § Music ministries include several loosely connected groups and individuals, so I talked with several of the main organizers.
- § Many of these individuals/groups spend substantial time in rehearsal.
- § They try to coordinate music selection with the liturgy. Nancy Beyer and Dan Wickizer are the main music contacts on the liturgy committee.
- § Several themes came up over and over from many of the musicians. These are listed below in their thoughts/comments.

Thoughts/comments from the musicians:

- § Communication among the individuals/groups sometimes breaks down. This causes trouble both when scheduling rehearsal times and determining who will provide music for the various Masses.
- § Scheduling for music groups with each other and with other church activities is a challenge even when communication is good.
- § There is confusion about the report from Charlie Gardner. People don't seem to know what to do with the comments. Several of his suggestions mean substantial changes from what they are doing now.
- § Musicians want to do what Father Chris would like, but they are unsure what that is.

Individual comments:

- § Emily is willing to take a bigger role in the music ministry, especially since she is paid, but she doesn't know what people want her to do.
- § Nancy would like for someone to take over playing for the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays so she just has to do 10:30. However, she will continue doing both if that is what is needed.
- § Marilyn thinks now is a good time to plan music for the whole liturgical year, since it begins in December. It is especially important to plan for the extra Masses that occur around holy days/holidays.
- § Several people suggested it would be helpful for all the musicians to meet occasionally as a group with Father Chris to do planning.

### St. Anne's Alter Society

Contacts were Lisa Baker, President and Sharon Crafton, Vice President.

Thoughts and comments:

- § They don't want St. Anne's to go by the wayside. They feel it's a valuable organization since it provides money to purchase items needed during Mass. They want to get the name out there so people will participate.
- § Sometimes they have scheduling conflicts with other organizations. They need to know what else is happening so they don't plan something for a time that already has another activity.
- § It is both a service and a social organization.
- § All women of the church are members, but many don't seem to know that.
- § Many women don't pay the \$5.00 dues.
- § Few volunteers help with the rummage sale.
- § They only have four meetings per year, and two of those are for fellowship.
- § Attendance is often poor especially among younger women.
- § Women in the church sometimes confuse functions of St. Anne's Alter Society and the Daughters of Isabella. These organizations cooperate on some projects. The Daughters of Isabella has better attendance. This year the combined D of I and St. Anne's Christmas Party is December 11, 6:30 p.m., at the K of C Hall.

### Funeral Meals

Contact was Pat Miller

Thoughts/comments:

- § Everything is fine
- § She has plenty of volunteers
- § Pat fronts the money for paper goods and meat. The church reimburses her.

### Prayer Line

Contact was Judy Barbee

Thoughts/comments:

- § Everything is fine and the process works well.
- § She starts the prayer chain and calls two others who continue the process.

### Prayer Group

Contact was Helen Lux

Thoughts/comments:

- § No needs
- § They pray for 15-20 minutes two times/week after the Tuesday and Thursday Masses
- § There is no membership
- § They follow a standard format
- § The group is faithful