

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting
Feb 24, 2009

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
Taken by Karen Harrison

Present: Michelle Anderson, Father Bill Breslin, James Cavanagh, Melissa Haapala, Karen Harrison (staff), Pam Jackimiec, Betty Jancosek, Joe Kubler, Tommy Lorden, Catalina Mendez, Pat Palaich, Neil Schiffhauer

Father Bill opened the meeting with prayer at 4:15 pm. Neil distributed minutes, pointing out sticking points and challenges from the half-day discussion on Feb 21, 2009. Neil will incorporate all suggestions from the envisioning process of Saturday and today into one document.

To recap, the elements of the council formation process introduced by Father Bill are envisioning the parish, solving problems and developing an agenda for parish improvement.

Melissa Haapala served as scribe, putting on the board council members' ideas of what they want to achieve, what to avoid and what to improve. Betty Jancosek put them into a MS Word document which is attached with these minutes.

There was general agreement on the need to identify parish resources, put charters and budgets in place, and have a coherent organizational structure with a clear chain of command.

Homework for the next meeting, scheduled for all day on Saturday, March 7, 2009, is to complete steps 2.3 – 2.5, the individual version of creating the parish purpose statement.

Note: The March 7 meeting has been postponed to Saturday, March 14, 2009. It will begin with the 8 am Mass, then move to the Parish Center; meeting time 9 am to 4 pm.

ACHIEVE

Smooth operation and organization
Active community/vibrant parish
Thriving school
More sharing between groups
Recognition/appreciation
(systematic and significant
recognition of volunteers/
encourage volunteers)
Greatness/unique, model parish
Resolve bilingual issues (e.g. masses)
Better communication (parishioners
know what is going on and why)
Active, vibrant, visible youth group
To define evangelization and study
appropriateness as primary
mission of church and school
Increase in faith of all/continuing
conversion
All go to heaven
Financial stability for sustainability;
grow parish membership
Integration/eliminate fragmentation
Source of pride/commitment of
all parishioners to school
Small church communities as means
to increase parish spirituality
Serve the needy
Make available resource list,
including Hispanic community
Penetration of social justice awareness
throughout all ministries
Promote reality that
school is investment in Catholic faith
Visibly pray together

AVOID

Losing parishioners (including church
and school)
Thinking work is our own instead
of Holy Spirit
Fiefdoms
Jumping to conclusions w/o
sufficient thought/information
Getting stuck on past/be overly
pleasing to those resistant to
change
Listening to self instead of others
Insolvency/living beyond means
Closing school
Complacency and inaction
Watering down message
Separating church and school
Insensitivity/lack of kindness and
compassion
Too much of top down implementation
Obstacles/ excuses
Burning out staff /volunteer
Being too business focused
Deteriorating infrastructure and
facilities
Gossip

IMPROVE

Culture
Middle School Offertory
Motivation, parishioners to deepen
faith
More sharing between groups
Communication x 3
Greeting those entering church
Visibility of group contributions
Opportunity for youth
'Curb appeal'
Continue improvements in liturgical
celebrations
Better relationships (e.g. church,
school, English-Spanish)
Social activities
Bilingual masses
Prioritization x 3
Showing, by our love for each other
'working on doors to the sacred'
Hispanic integration
Social outreach/care of poor