

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF

October 5, 2010

Present at the meeting**

Father Vern Decoteau, pastor
Debbie Fish, chair
Paula Moran, co-chair; marriage enrichment
Francesca Forrest, secretary
Deacon Bill Brawner
Ray Fontaine, communications
Courtney Crosby, communications
Lorie Erickson, family life
Dottie Adams, hospitality
Frank Adams, hospitality
Therese Rakouskas, marriage enrichment (Teams of Our Lady)
John Rakouskas, marriage enrichment (Teams of Our Lady)
Carla Dell'Olio, vocations
Stan Wyman, finance committee
Jeanne Brzycki, communications liaison
Everett Hume, diocesan representative, deanery representative
Carolyn Groves, director, religious education
Donna Grady, music ministry liaison

***This list represents those who signed the attendance sheet or those whom the secretary recalls being present. Minutes can be corrected to include others who were in attendance.*

1. Debbie Fish called the meeting to order (time not noted); Father Vern joined us shortly

2. Prayer – Debbie Fish

3. Previous minutes and current agenda accepted; calendar reviewed

4. Commission Reports

A. Communications

--We will move commission nominations to the fall: September 10, 17, and 24, 2011, for pitches; October 8–9 for nominations; first week in December 2011 will be the first meeting the new members attend. (This schedule to be firmed up in July 2011)

--updating commission brochures and other material to go in the welcome packet

- plan to review the welcome packet
- Therese Rakouskas expressed interest in going over the welcome packet and in adding a letter on altar serving. A Teams of Our Lady (TOOL) brochure should also go in.

B. Family Life

- Lorie Erikson reported that the NCYC team wants to run a photo booth (with costumes, etc.) for First Night. The Knights of Columbus can help with popcorn.
- Paula Moran suggested face painting as another possible activity.

C. Hospitality

- potluck supper on October 3 (before Transitus)
- Pam Letendre will help Dottie and Frank Adams transition in.

D. Marriage Enrichment

- Therese and John Rakouskas, who are one of the couples participating in Teams of Our Lady (TOOL), reported that the Del'Olios had been elected the "responsible couple" (i.e., the couple who will lead the group).
- Fr. Vern hopes to get another team going in the coming year.
- Carla Del'Olio described a commitment ceremony as a possible way of highlighting Teams of Our Lady.

E. Spiritual Life

- Fr. Vern reported that the Transitus went well.
- Booklets for Christmas have been ordered.

F. Vocations

- Carla Del'Olio reported that the Vocations Cross is booked until January 2011.
- Vocations Commission members will talk with Fr. Dailey at Newman Center at UMass about encouraging vocations.

5. Old Business

A. First Night Program for Belchertown's 250th Anniversary

- Covered above under Family Life.

B. Recruitment Schedule

- Everett Hume will revise the Pastoral Council bylaws to reflect the changes the council is instituting.

6. New Business

A. Welcome New Director of Religious Education: Carolyn Groves

- Welcome, Carolyn! Carolyn Groves expressed admiration for Judy Trickey's work in developing Generations of Faith at St. Francis.
- New things Carolyn is working on include establishing an e-mail list of participating families and making home kits available online, to save paper. All participating families will receive a book to work from/with at the first meeting.
- There will be food at the first meeting.
- She invited Bill Cosby to come do the "Noah" skit for Generations of Faith (he lives nearby, so there is at least a possibility this might happen).

B. Finance Report

- We welcome Stan Wyman back.
- No report this month, but things are going according to schedule. Fuel letters will go out in November; rectory is on schedule.
- *Catholic Observer* contribution will go toward *Catholic Mirror* (new magazine), which is estimated to cost \$6,000, although this cost will drop as advertisers start to buy space (in other areas, the cost dropped 20-30 percent after three years). The last page of the *Mirror* can be personalized for each parish.

C. Other New Business (not on the agenda)

- Rectory: drywall is done; now at the stage of painting with primer. After that, flooring and finish work; Fr. Vern should be in by Thanksgiving.
- Diocesan Council: Everett reports that it is changing to be more like a pastoral council (i.e., parishioner led rather than priest—or in this case, bishop—led).

7. Closing Prayer and photo

Adjournment time not noted, but it was before 9:15. The next meeting will be on November 2, 2010.