

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF

November 2, 2010

Present at the meeting\*\*

Father Vern Decoteau, pastor  
Debbie Fish, chair  
Paula Moran, co-chair; marriage enrichment  
Francesca Forrest, secretary  
Dave Adams, communications  
Ray Fontaine, communications  
Beth Buczko, family life  
Lorie Erickson, family life  
Roseann Montefusco, family life (Food Pantry)  
Dottie Adams, hospitality  
Frank Adams, hospitality  
Therese Rakouskas, marriage enrichment (Teams of Our Lady)  
John Rakouskas, marriage enrichment (Teams of Our Lady)  
Pam Letendre, spiritual life  
Carla Dell'Olio, vocations  
Franco Dell'Olio, vocations  
Jeanne Brzycki, communications liaison  
Laura Hamel, guest  
Deacon Francis Ryan, guest

*\*\*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.*

### **I. Father Vern called the meeting to order at 7:30**

### **2. Prayer – Father Vern**

### **3. Previous minutes and current agenda accepted; calendar reviewed**

### **4. Guest Speakers**

**A. Deacon Francis Ryan** gave a presentation on the Take and Eat program he founded, which supplements Meals on Wheels. Meals on Wheels doesn't provide meals on weekends or holidays. Deacon Francis has gradually drawn in churches (ecumenically) throughout northwestern Massachusetts and is working south. Churches commit to providing a meal for a weekend each month.

- The council agreed that we'd be interested and agreed to have Deacon Francis come to present the idea to the parish. If there is enough interest/volunteers, Deacon Francis would then help us launch the program. This would include a six-week training period, during which volunteers would learn how to raise money, how to cook food, how to organize, etc.
- Statistics: Take and Eat served 41,500 meals last year; had 2,000 volunteers from 50 churches
- He estimates our area would serve approximately 125-150 clients. A list would be obtained from the local Council on Aging.

**B. Laura Hamel** wanted to propose supporting those in the community who are currently serving in the military on active duty overseas.

- send them not primarily food but other things (e.g. Christmas cards, decorations, CDs)
- first make an announcement, telling families they can write down the names of their family members, etc. who are serving. (November 6-7 and November 13-14) Then announce collecting donations (November 20-21st)
- Paula Moran mentioned "ziplock baggie challenge" (the organization takes care of the mailing, etc.) That organization has lists of handy items that soldiers need that can be put in a ziplock baggie.
- The Council approved Laura's moving forward with this.

## 5. Commission Reports

### A. Communications

- Reviewed the brochure and made corrections
- Decision to put brochure in bulletin
- What does the rest of the welcome packet contain?
  - map of church
  - stewardship commitment
  - church fact sheet
  - music ministry sheet
  - Knights of Columbus info
  - time and talent survey
  - Cub Scout Pack 57 info
  - community map
  - town phone numbers
  - history of town
  - another map
  - catechism
  - business cards with church numbers
- Things to add: Teams of our Lady, information on altar serving, bio for Fr. Vern and Deacon Bill

## **B. Family Life**

- Beth reviewed ideas that have been proposed for Belchertown's First Night celebration. These included serving a variety of food and also having movies, arts & crafts, face painting, etc., downstairs in Social Center. (Fr. Vern suggested upstairs is better for movies, etc., especially if any food will be served downstairs. The Council advised that we should not try to do too much and just choose 1-2 things that we can be successful at.
- Food Bank reimbursed St. Francis Food Pantry \$170 for food lost when freezer broke down

## **C. Hospitality**

- Served refreshments when Fr. Alex came

## **D. Marriage Enrichment**

- ceremony to promote Teams of our Lady
- working on developing a calendar for the year
- Sunday November 7, informational meeting at 10:30 at St. Cecilia's (currently 4 teams in Wilbraham, 2 in Ludlow, 1 in Belchertown)
- February 12 will be a retreat for all area teams

## **E. Spiritual Life**

- booklets for Advent picked out
- selling candles but not advent wreaths this year
- Bishop coming December 5

## **F. Vocations**

- new seminarians directory
- meeting with Fr. Dailey November 5
- vocations cross still booked up
- preparing to send out Christmas cards for seminarians

## **6. Old Business**

### **A. (no particular old business)**

## **7. New Business**

### **A. Recapping Deacon Francis's proposal for Roseann.**

- She agreed; that's when the pastoral council voted to participate.
- An allocation from the food bank can be used to pay costs.
- In other Food Pantry business, Roseann asked about holding an "open pantry" on some regular basis. The Food Pantry is currently open in a limited fashion to the public (as opposed to making deliveries only) the 4th Friday of each month, from 9:30-11:30. It was suggested that we may want to try something quarterly.

## **8. Closing Prayer and photo**

**Adjournment. The next meeting will be on December 7, 2010.**