

COMMUNITY OF EPIPHANY
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2010

Members Present: Fr. Jeff Nicolas, Sr. Mary Gowern, Chuck Sgro, Amy Shoemaker, Carol Harris, Sharon Bidwell, Tricia Burke, Michael Cuyjet, Kate Rueve, Rosemary Smith, Laurie Atwell, Dee Dee Baur, Shari Baxter, Hub Daugherty, Jan Dostal, Patrick Evans, Julie Stuart for Jo Anne Feldman, Anne Ramsey, Lisa Scherer

Alternates: Connie Fowler

Guests: Tony Raley, Greg Tichenor, Kermit Scarlott

ROUTINE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Welcome to Guests: Chuck Sgro welcomed guests who are attending as part of their discernment process to determine if they want to run for Parish Pastoral Council.

Approval of Minutes: The March 25, 2010 minutes were reviewed, corrected, and approved as submitted with consensus.

Letters of Appreciation: Letters of Appreciation were requested for:

Pat Evans for being an amazing Administrator for the Capital Campaign. Tricia Burke will write this letter.

Thank you to the Worship Committee for their profound work on the Lent and Holy Week liturgies. Sr. Mary will write these letters.

COMMUNITY FORUM: Parishioners offer comments and suggestions. **PPC members listen, but do not comment.**

There were no speakers at this meeting.

Census Committee Survey Update - Carol Harris

Carol Harris presented a final report on the Census, as well as suggestions for the future. Thirty-five individuals made phone calls contacting 811 households who did not return their Stewardship packets. Of these,

51 are no longer members of Epiphany

176 letters were sent to those who could not be reached by phone

53 responded with either a letter or phone call

123 did not respond in any way to the letter

16 of the 123 are Hispanic; they are referred to Therese for additional follow-up

39 are contributors in 2009 and 2010

58 have been moved to an inactive file

Approximately 40 pastoral follow-ups were made as a result of the Census calls

It is suggested that a new ministry be set up to conduct a full annual census and that it be performed in the Spring. It is important to remember that this year the Census Committee only called those individuals who did not return Stewardship packets. Announcements should be placed in the bulletin that calls will be made, and to report the findings of the census. It is recommended that future census place more emphasis on review of the names on the list prior to sending follow-up letters to check for those who

donate to, are very involved in, or are employed by Epiphany. It is also suggested that more emphasis be placed on calling households at least three times, if necessary, and that calls to Hispanic families be made by someone who speaks Spanish. A lot of good work was accomplished by this census. We learned of pastoral follow-ups that were needed, updated correct phone numbers, and ascertained information about young adults who are no longer living with their parents.

To continue this on an annual basis will require someone to be appointed as the quarterback. We will also need to identify and train people who will want to conduct this census in the future. A decision must also be made to determine the Committee under which this ministry will reside, and identify the primary purpose of the census. This should be addressed at the next PPC meeting.

Capital Campaign Update - Tricia Burke & Anne Ramsey

The Campaign is about "a Future of Hope" and is comprised of two parts - the Archdiocesan Campaign and Initiatives, and the Epiphany Capital Campaign and Shared Parish desires. An amazing amount of work has been done and the Campaign is moving forward.

The Building Committee has produced a wonderful design for connecting our Worship and Community Centers. Requests for prayers are being submitted to the Prayer Committee. Packets are ready for distribution to the community, the children are making posters, Jeff Squyres and his team have produced a video, and the Contact Team is ready to begin making calls to parishioners.

Fr. Jeff and Sr. Mary have coordinated a very powerful preaching program for the three inspiration weekends; gatherings have been scheduled and will soon take place. Two gatherings will be held in the Community Center on May 18th and May 19th, and three will be held in individual homes.

Fr. Jeff has spoken with many other pastors and found that Epiphany's levels of leadership rival any other parish. We are blessed to have a clear need. Everyone involved is very eager and excited about the progress; we are at the knock point where the dominos start to fall, the momentum starts to build and continues to snowball. This will culminate with Commitment Weekend and the Parish's 39th Birthday Party on June 6th. Results will be announced on Celebration weekend, June 26 and 27.

2010-2011 PPC Elections Time Table - Amy Shoemaker

The nomination schedule has been moved up to allow an additional week to have speakers at each liturgy calling forth members of the community to consider being a nominee for PPC. Amy has called 16 nominees. A few have indicated that this was not the right time for them; however, there are quite a few who are still interested. All nominees were invited to this month's PPC meeting. There will be a discernment meeting at Epiphany House next Sunday, April 25th, at 1:00 p.m., then a follow-up on Tuesday from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Following this, the nominees will have until May 4th to prepare their Bios.

The schedule for the remainder of the Election Time Table is:

- April 25 Discernment/orientation meeting at Epiphany House from 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- April 27 Discernment/orientation meeting at Epiphany House from 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- May 4 Bios are due from nominees.
- May 8-9 Information will be posted on the web site and disseminated through e-mail
- May 15-16 Posters of nominees will be displayed in the Gathering Area and posted on the Epiphany web site. Limited hard copies will be available
- May 21 Absentee ballots are due by close of business in the Epiphany office.
- May 22-23 Election of three PPC members. Ballots will be counted by the Standing Committee representatives after 11:30 a.m. liturgy.
- May 24-28 Executive Committee meets in special session to select the appointed member. The Election Committee will contact remaining candidates to determine their interest in serving as Alternate Members.
- June 5-6 New PPC members will be announced at Liturgies.
- June 12-13 New PPC members will be announced in the bulletin.
- June 19-20 New PPC members will be announced in the bulletin

2010-2011 Budget Process - Laurie Atwell

A draft worksheet has been distributed to Committees and staff. These worksheets are to be completed and returned by May 4th, at which time they will be consolidated into a draft budget. Committee Chairs and Parish Staff will meet on May 11 at 6:30 p.m. to go through the draft and prepare a balanced budget. This will be distributed to the PPC members prior to the May 27 meeting. It is requested that questions be sent via e-mail to Laurie Atwell or Pat Evans. The agenda for the May PPC meeting should include time for review of the budget. Normally approval is delayed until the following month; however, the Finance Committee would like to have a vote on the budget at the May PPC meeting. The approved budget will then become effective on July 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Refreshments at the PPC Meetings - Chuck Sgro

A question has been posed whether it is appropriate to continue offering alcohol beverages at the PPC Meetings since:

- 1) We are here doing the Church's business
- 2) We have youth present at most meetings

This was discussed at the Executive Council meeting. No one has ever observed any abuse. We must consider whether we can continue to conduct the business before us, having enjoyed an alcoholic beverage. Do we allow the refreshment hosts for the evening decide if they wish to offer alcoholic beverages along with the refreshments?

Fr. Jeff advised that in our Catholic tradition we have never considered use of alcohol to be evil. This is a gift of God and we need to respect it. There is nothing inherently wrong with it. Others discussed the importance of educating our youth in the responsible use of alcohol and felt what they see at PPC meetings is appropriate respect for consumption and behavior. Others were concerned about the possibility of someone among the group being alcoholic and what effect having such beverages available might have on them.

There was consensus that it is fair to allow the hosts decide if they wish to serve alcoholic beverages. Many feel it is a positive reinforcement for the youth to see alcoholic beverages being enjoyed in a responsible and respectful manner while still properly

conducting the business at hand. There were no youth members at the meeting to share in this discussion; however, Sr. Mary Gown will discuss this with them and their parents.

What if we just said, “Wait” - Fr. Jeff

Fr. Jeff made a very good presentation of this issue to parishioners at last weekend's liturgies. The tone was good and the manner in which it was presented was informative. This provided a basis for parishioners to learn of the issue, an opportunity for further individual research, and the opportunity to sign a petition to “just say wait.”

It is important for PPC to help the parish remember that this is not a protest, but an act of service to the larger Church. Some elements outside Epiphany are trying to make this something it is not. Epiphany is merely trying to point out that a different implementation method may be useful. Fr. Jeff had spoken with the Archbishop before sharing this with the Epiphany parishioners. We are not the only parish that is looking at this issue. This weekend there will be laptops available for those who wish to sign the petition. There will also be hard copy forms available and an insert in the bulletin.

Pastoral Associate's Comments - Sr. Mary Gown

We had a very small number of newcomers in January, February, and March. Therefore, we will not have a Newcomers Brunch on April 25th, but will combine this group with new members joining Epiphany during the next three months. One great benefit for newcomers is listening to the stories of why people come to Epiphany. A larger group provides more interest and value.

New Business

Fr. Joe Atcher is being transferred out of the Archdiocese by his Carmelite Community. His last weekend with Epiphany will be Celebration weekend, June 27th. In addition to celebrating the success of Epiphany's Capital Campaign, there will be a farewell party for Fr. Atcher thanking him for his service to our community.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Administration: Nothing additional

Community Care: Nothing additional

Formation: Nothing additional

Parish Life: Parish Life is conducting a fair this weekend trying to recruit new members who will bring new ideas and build a “think tank” to liven up social events at Epiphany.

Social Responsibility: Nothing additional

Stewardship: The Stewardship meeting was held Tuesday night. Stewardship packets will be distributed October 23 and 24; the Pancake Breakfast will be October 30 and 31.

Worship: Nothing additional

Youth: Nothing additional

CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting closed with a prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy New, recording secretary