

St. Bede Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2005

Present: Fr. Abe, Greg Ballentine, Rosanne Black, Bill Burke, Francis Capone, Ginger DiLoreto, Larry Fronheiser, Charles Leahey, John McCormack, Betty Morris, Miriam Saguto, Don Seger, Tina Straight, William Theroux, Tess Thome, Jeannie Trainum

Absent: Dave Clemens, Toni Collingwood, Monica Rettig

Don called the meeting to order at 7:05 and Rosanne offered the opening prayer. Don then welcomed Larry Fronheiser, Bill Burke and Mary Ann Massey to the meeting.

Councils/Staff Workshop:

We immediately entered into a discussion, led by Mary Ann, concerning the upcoming Councils/Staff workshop to be held on January 28th at the church. Mary Ann will be the facilitator for this meeting.

Mary Ann offered a brief outline of talking points in order to build consensus about the meeting (theme, objectives, agenda, etc.). Using her handout she began by asking the group:

- 1) What did we want from the meeting?
- 2) How long should it be?
- 3) How many people to be involved?
- 4) What do we want to accomplish?
- 5) Considering the past and the present where would we like to be in the future?
- 6) Should we use the "excellent parish" points presented during the Bishop's recent homily as a theme for the meeting?

This led to a discussion concerning various aspects of the upcoming meeting and what we should focus on:

- 1) The Mission Statement - how complete it is and whether we should look at it further or work with what we have and get to an action plan.
- 2) How does a new ministry get started and apply for funding? What, if any procedures, are in place?
- 3) Support for current ministries and how to grow that support i.e., keep up with inflation.
- 4) Stewardship and how to develop it.
- 5) What role(s) do the three groups play and how do they work together?
- 6) The time for the meeting and how best to focus in on what is most important.

The result of the dialogue ended with the following proposal for the meeting agenda:

- 1) Prior to the meeting everyone would have received information on the role of each group via email. Everyone should have read the information and reflected on it. In addition, copies of "Called to Serve" and "Called to Stewardship" should be available for the PC and FC representatives respectively.
- 2) The meeting would begin at the 9 am Saturday Mass with the homily focus aimed to clarify, unify, motivate and energize.

- 3) After Mass, and a brief social time in the Commons, the three groups would meet together. A representative of each group would give a 10-15 minute review of their organization(s) followed by a Q&A session for clarification.
- 4) The larger group would break into smaller discussion groups (individuals selected at random) with the goal to develop a question revolving around Stewardship e.g., how do we build for the future? where do we focus our efforts?, what is it that we want to accomplish next and ensuing years?, etc.
- 5) The total group would gather again to share what the smaller groups had developed.
- 6) The three organizations: PC, FC, Staff would then gather separately to formulate their group's 6-9 month plan.
- 7) All groups would gather once more to share their plans and to make commitments.
- 8) Close the meeting at 1 pm.

From the discussion about the meeting and development of the proposed agenda the focus of the meeting revolved around two primary points:

- 1) Better understanding of each groups role
- 2) Focus on Stewardship **in all of its aspects** (time, talent and treasure) because in order for the groups to support and meet the goals/mission of St. Bede Parish, Stewardship has to grow.

Mary Ann is available to assist the 3 groups. She would like to have an individual from each group meet with her in order to refine what was developed at this session and to prepare for the meeting. Don, Miriam and Larry will coordinate attendance from their respective organizations for this planning session. It was agreed that by January 15, 2006 the meeting planning would be completed including the final agenda, format, etc. It was also agreed that another meeting would be needed later in 2006 to continue this effort and to assess progress.

Old Business:

Don announced that we have 11 candidates running for the PC elections and he distributed the candidate's information that will be presented to the parish for the upcoming election. The selected individuals will attend the next PC meeting on January 25, 2006.

Fr. Abe asked if anyone has ever been appointed to the PC by the pastor. This might be done in order to provide better balance to the organization. The Bylaws were read and under Article IV A1 c the pastor can make an appointment.

New Business: Pastor's Proposals

Parish Community Life Committee (PCLC): Fr. Abe proposed that the Parish Community Life Committee be restarted. This group's function would be in conducting events for every type of group and therefore to oversee and promote the quality of community life. Miriam then distributed a document, developed after discussion with John and Ginger, which outlined the three areas that this organization would oversee: Standard Events, Occasional Events and Events that Have Hosting Groups. It was suggested that the PC could assist by identifying those people who can help with this effort. The goal is to get enough people together to begin to develop this committee. Discussion followed:

- 1) The role of the group has to be defined specifically
- 2) Rosanne agreed to lead the effort to get this established but not to actually lead the group. All agreed that this would require many volunteers in order to spread the workload appropriately.
- 3) Miriam asked everyone to look at the information on the handout and suggest what events are good to do. Also, a parish newsletter article, with a response page asking for input on events and willingness to volunteer, will be done.
- 4) The display equipment now in the Commons and currently being used for the organ information can be used for advertising events, seeking volunteers, etc.

Friends for Life Committee (FL): Fr. Abe introduced the fact that this ministry has dropped off in activity and members. He is going to have two meetings next week with the current members in order to assess the situation. This group is supposed to be under the Social Ministry and its role is to provide timely information and activities to build a culture for life, i.e. protecting everyone from conception to natural death. He is asking the PC for ideas on how to strengthen the organization and its work. Suggestions/comments from the PC included:

- 1) The Stephen Ministry effort failed and it is possible that FL is not succeeding for similar reasons.
- 2) The PC could meet with the FL to discuss the format of the group and develop an outline of how the FL could operate more effectively. At the Diocese the Justice and Peace organization has responsibility for the Respect for Life efforts. Moving it under SM and linking to the Diocese could help.
- 3) Don agreed to get more Diocese information, too speak with his contact in the FL and to report back to Fr. Abe.

Committee Reports:

Liturgy Committee (LC): Betty distributed the LC minutes from the November meeting. Some highlights included:

- 1) The Installation Mass for Fr. Abe went very well.

- 2) Tomorrow night the Advent Penance Service will have 8 priests available. There are two additional dates for confessions after the 9 am Masses – dates are in the bulletin.
- 3) There is still a great need for ministers at the Christmas Masses so please help if you can and/or ask others to contact Mary Oles.
- 4) The New Years Masses are set.
- 5) At Easter there will be 11 Masses.
- 6) For those serving at the 4 pm Christmas Mass please come early and consider using the shuttle service.
- 7) Due to the possibility of a bad flu season, it was decided that during January and February the common cup would not be offered.

Meeting Minutes: The November meeting minutes were approved as written.

The next meeting will be January 25, 2006 at 7 pm in the church. The PC/FC/Staff meeting will take place on Saturday January 28, 2006 in the church beginning with the 9 am Mass.

Fr. Abe offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Ballentine
Secretary