

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**St. Ambrose Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**November 15, 2011**

**Present:** Andy Gresko, Jim Spak, Dc. Tom Picciano, Fr. Don, Fr. Charles, Patti Sergent, Francine Butler-Groat, Paul Yusko, Joey Singleton, Sheila Sweeney, Barbara Kane, George Mickey Bush, Mary Ann Bass

The meeting began with an opening prayer.

Fr. Currie opened by thanking all who serve all the needs in our parish. He reported that the state of the parish is good. He said that Faith Formation, Charitable Works and Parish Ancillary Activities should be the main concerns of our council. Finances and Building Concerns could be topics added to the Parish Ancillary Activities category.

I. Faith Formation and Spiritual/liturgical Life Agenda

- a. Book, Rediscover Catholicism, or CD, “The 7 Pillars of Catholic Spirituality” both by Matthew Kelly.

It was suggested that one or both of these be a gift for parishioners at Christmas. Barbara said that these titles both enlighten parishioners about our church. The book is an easy read. If you have the CD, the book is free. The council voted that we thought giving a gift to parishioners at Christmas was a good idea. There were 4 titles considered when these were chosen. There was much discussion as to which we preferred; book or CD. It was noted that the print in the book is small and could be difficult for some to read. After many suggestions as to how to make a choice (Andy – put a card in the bulletin for parishioners to trade in for a book; make an announcement; Fr. Charles – just hand them out) and when to hand them out, we decided to present each family with a gift of a book. We talked about having a bookmark or bookplate with the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banner on it made (possibly at Carr Printing) to put in each book.

- b. Survey: Needs of our people/National Survey

Fr. Charles said the survey is still a work in progress, and there will be more information next month. He read us a little about a survey done by the National Catholic Reporter. It was interesting but didn’t include topics about pastoral needs which we thought would be important to our survey. Andy suggested we could hand out our survey in sections with the weekly bulletin.

- c. Briefing: Thanksgiving/Christmas/Liturgical Season/Basically Bach Ensemble

\*Thanksgiving liturgy is a strong tradition in our church.

\*Christmas – Our Penance Service is on 12/18. OLS is 12/15. St. Anthony is 12/20.

\*Basically Bach Concert is next Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

\*Dc. Tom told us about an ecumenical Healing & Thanksgiving Service that will be held on Sunday, 11/20 at St. Ambrose. 15 area churches have been

invited to participate. The service will include music, prayer and scripture. Andy and Patti volunteered to help with a reception afterward.

\*Andy told us about a collection of Christmas decorations being taken for flood victims. Items can be taken to the Clinton Street American Legion from 4 to 8 p.m. on certain days. More information is available through the Mental Health Clinic.

## II. Charitable works for All God's People

### a. Outreach/Pastoral Ministries Update

1. Mother Teresa's Cupboard has been serving record numbers of people. At times more food has had to be obtained. Francine asked how the 10:15 food donation is working. Barbara said it didn't go over well. People do donate every week, though. Patti thought we needed to make a bigger deal of it. Maybe we could do it more often than once a month. It was suggested that we try again in the spring.
2. Thanksgiving baskets – We will be distributing 101 baskets. Barbara said we didn't have as much food donated as we usually do.
3. Soup Kitchen – The Thanksgiving meal is on Wednesday night. The Confirmation class teens will serve. We are expecting more than 100 people.
4. Sick/Dying – Dc. Tom said the Mass of Remembrance was held to honor 33 deceased. All went well. He requested that we please let the parish office know if a person needs visiting. Also, let them know when the service is no longer needed. Let the office know if someone needs to receive Communion at home.
5. Human Development
  - \*Barbara said she has been approached by someone who would like to do a couponing presentation. It would take about 2 hrs. Francine asked where it fit into our mission. Patti said that it could bring people together.
  - \*Fr. Currie said that before the food pantry opened we had many requests for services (food, clothes, prescriptions, utilities, etc). It became overwhelming. Now people go to the pantry first, then they come to the parish is more help is needed. The people at the pantry know enough about the clients so that they don't take advantage of us.

### b. Parish Flood Relief

#### 1. Flood Relief Center

\*Barbara said that the center is closed. People can still get help from the pantry.

\*Mental Health Association is using space in the school throughout 2012. Dc. Tom said they started with 24 people to go out into the community and have since added more. Their program is called 'Project Renew'. They will be knocking on doors and offering to help.

c. Lent – Fish Dinner

\*George is a new parishioner from Chris The King parish. He was in charge of Lenten Friday Fish dinners there. He said they make money and drew people together. Many committees worked to get it done. They tithed to many groups. They also donated food to Broome Bounty. The Millers from the car dealership helped advertise. They would be held all 7 weeks of Lent, including Good Friday. He was asked what the initial amount of volunteers was when he began the program: approx. 25. This increased over the years as need arose. Eventually they had almost 99% parish involvement. What was the cost of dinners? In 2008, \$8.50 for adults, \$4.00 for children, kids under 5 free. At one point there was a family maximum price but this was discontinued due to abuse by patrons. Fish is prepared in olive oil whether fried or baked (both choices are offered for the dinner). Mac and cheese, coleslaw, dessert and beverage were also offered. How long is a work shift? It varies; some could be ½ hour, 1 hour or all day, if desired. The jobs were posted on a sign up sheet and volunteers chose their shifts. This offered opportunity for everyone to be involved. It was an opportunity to build parish community and neighborhood interaction.

Pastoral Council concerns: Would we have enough volunteers to make this work? Suggestion was to pose this idea to the congregation via bulletin and Mass announcement.

A request for Mickey to provide Father with a written synopsis of what this would entail. This will be submitted prior to the January Council meeting.

III. Parish Ancillary/Supportive Activities

b. Quarterly Coffee Hour

\*Tentative date: January 29<sup>th</sup> (hopefully during the off week of football play-offs.) Planning can take place during next P.C. meeting. Discussed the attendance of these gatherings and it was decided to eliminate having one after the 8 a.m. Mass and prefacing the one after the 5:15 p.m. as serving cheese and crackers rather than coffee and doughnuts, since parishioners typically are having dinner after Mass.

Closing Prayer

Meetings for 2011 – 2012

10/18/11	2/21/12	5/15/12
11/15/11	3/20/12	6/19/12
1/17/12	4/17/12	