

St. Isidore Parish Council Meeting

March 21, 2007

Meeting Minutes

I. ATTENDING MEMBERS:

Father Tony, Dan Hilo, Valerie Calvente, Samantha Delfin, Dan McKeivitt, Tom Norton, John Pieranunzi, Kim Ramsey, Hank Steerman, John Valene, Fiedlia Vivas, Matthew

II. OPENING PRAYER

III. COMMISSION UPDATES

The Worship Commission by John Valene

John reported that the gym is now being used once a week by the teen group, which is good news. Ash Wednesday went very smooth this week. The old 5 foot statue of Mary is still in a closet. We plan to hold onto it, until we know what's going to happen with the new or renovated building.

Youth Group by Samantha Delfin

Samantha reported that the youth group had a meeting two weeks prior. The focus was on the Confirmandé. Samantha reported that she and others are trying to get teens to join more of the commissions. She will keep us informed as they proceed.

The Service Commission

It is proposed that the Service and Parish Life ministries merge to form the Human Needs Commission. It was also proposed that Carol Burr assume leadership for this particular commission, since Dan McDevitt has faithfully and gracefully served in a leadership capacity for the commission and Parish Council for years. It is proposed that the following groups will be captured in the Human Needs commission: Outreach Ministry Board, Parish Life Board, Project HEAL, Hispanic Community Board, and the Social Action Ministries Board. It was recommended that this change become effective beginning July 1, 2007. The Parish Council members are asked to prayerfully consider this structural change and be prepared to vote on it at the April 18 meeting.

The Parish Life Commission

No report

The Formation Commission

Hank reported that the last meeting this commission had focused on Catholic education. No further specifics were available.

The Stewardship Commission by John Pieranunzi

Barb Tillman reported that the Called and Gifted workshop has been scheduled for June 15-16 in the St. Isidore Ministry Center. This program helps Catholics find out where you might have a "charism." This program started through the western Dominican province and has been taking off ever since. The Parish Council is requested to all attend this important workshop. Further questions can be directed to Barb.

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IV. CIRCLES OF MINISTRY CIRCLES OF MINISTRY

Tom Norton presented a diagram which visually represents the organizational structure of our Parish. We had significant discussion of our respective reactions. Feedback was mostly positive, with some mixed. Dan Hilo proposed that the Parish Council members give it further thought and plan to vote on it at the next meeting on April 18, 2007.

In a discussion regarding the future of the church, Father Tony indicated that more priests are needed. In his opinion, the Catholic church will need to attract not only a higher volume of priests, but also attract more young senior citizens and members from the Hispanic population into the priesthood. He further indicated that only 3 of the priests in the diocese are native born Spanish speakers. They are represented in very small numbers. Our parish has been fortunate to have had 3 priests who have been native born speakers. They have fueled the Hispanic people's interest in our church. We'll need to attract more. On that note, Father Tony has asked that Father Filipe's assignment at our parish be extended for one year.

VI. HISPANIC BOARD

1. The Hispanic Board is trying to recruit more Hispanics into the Eucharistic Ministry training on March 28, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
2. Hilberto Cabazos will be a speaker on March 31 in the Ministry Center
3. They are looking for more Spanish speaking volunteers
4. Bible studies have been very full in the library and more help is needed

VII. FACILITY MASTER PLAN

Tom Norton reported that our Facility Master Plan project team is being facilitated by Augie Battaglia, who is VP of FGM Architectural Firm, but we have not contracted with FGM.

the group has been working with FGM architects and planners. A survey is going out to ministry leaders as the firm is in data gathering mode. They will collect all of the input as of April 11, 2007 to better understand the facility needs of the parish. The results of the survey will be communicated at a future Parish Council meeting

VIII. LAY LEADERSHIP

As people further researched the definition of lay leadership at other parishes, we quickly learned that it is being inconsistently defined by other Catholic churches. For example, St. Peter Apostle defines lay leader positions as those which include: the clergy, head of the school, Parish Council members, Finance, and the leaders of a commission or ministry. We did not make a final decision on this issue. The council members would like to hear an additional opinion from Father Tony on his interpretation of "lay leadership." We will put this issue to rest on April 18, 2007.

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IX. BY-LAWS CHANGES

Article 6, page 6 of the by-laws has been changed. Parish Council members have been asked to take a look at it.

X. METRICS

Tom Norton indicated that we are unable to break down the number of families who have one or more involved in a ministry *by commission*. We can, however, continue to track the total percentage of families who have at least 1 member involved in a commission. The number as of February, 2007 was 1354 as compared to 1160/5800 families as of January, 2007.

XI. PARISH COUNCIL FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

- Open issue from February 7 meeting - Some Parish Council members believed that the definition of lay leader should be more narrowly defined and include those people who are specially trained and/or educated in the Catholic doctrine. We concluded that we would seek additional points of view from other parishes to see how they define it. We do have various views from other parishes. No consistency was found. In addition, Tom said he would consult with Father Tony to seek his interpretation/definition. We will discuss and reach a decision in our next meeting in April.
- Open issue from February 7 meeting - Denise, Andrea and Lisa will work together to determine if a larger space can be freed up to accommodate the increasing number of youth group participants. Examine the possibility of renting space at the church next door for the ESL courses. We'll need an update on progress.
- Open issue from February 7 meeting - Each commission will need to identify and evaluate the goals which they proposed on the following three pages. The commission must discuss what will be required for this to be successful and determine whether or not it is important and well thought out enough to present its submission to the Parish Council. It is the Commission's responsibility to complete the necessary research and think through each recommendation. The commission must present their recommendation, with funding requirements, volunteer requirements and recommended time table by the end of March, 2007 for funding to be granted in 2007. The commissions can proceed with implementation of the action plans which do not require any funding or cross-commission collaboration, etc. (See attachment below)
- Open issue from March 21, 2007 meeting - The Finance commission will prepare the draft of the 2007 budget for presentation to the Parish Council in April 18, 2007.

- Parish members need to prayerfully consider the decision to revise the parish structure to combine the Parish Life Commission and the Service Commission to form the "Human Needs Commission. We will vote on this structural change at the April 18 meeting.
- Tom Norton will send out the Communications Coordinator position description to the Parish Council members by April 18, 2007

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X. PARISH COUNCIL FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

- Tom Norton will add the Grief Ministry to the "Circles of Ministry" chart
- Tom Norton will talk to Carol Burr about her interest in assuming leadership for the "Human Needs" commission by the April 18 meeting.
- Each commission leaders must explain to their commission that if the strategies they developed in January, 2007 require funding in 2007, they need to be submitted by April 11, 2007 to be considered by the Parish Council on April 18, 2007
- TomNortonwill send out the facility master plan to the parish council members

Attachment

Commission Action Plans Which Will Require Cross-Commission Coordination/Funding and Parish Council Review

a) Mission Trips to Rebuild Black Churches

Sample Questions

- What is the purpose?
- What are the intended benefits?
- How many mission trips will we target as a parish in 07? 08? 09?
- How many volunteers are reasonably needed per trip?
- Who will spearhead these missions?
- What funding will be required?
- What additional commissions will need to coordinate their efforts?
- Recommended Next Steps

b) Year Round PAD's at St. Isidore

Sample Questions

- What is the purpose?
- What are the intended benefits?
- What kind of funding is required?
- How will it work?
- How will it impact the other ministries, school sporting activities, RE programs, etc run out of the ministry center?
- What other considerations for successful implementation?
- What days will it be offered? How often?
- What facility?
- What other commissions need to be involved? Volunteer base required?
- Recommended Next Steps

c) 24x7 Adoration Chapel

Sample Questions

- What is the purpose?
- What are the intended benefits?
- What is the recommended plan?
- How will it be staffed?
- Will a separate facility be required?
- What are the additional considerations? Noise from the church?
- Who will spearhead?
- What kind of funding is required?
- What is the projected number of parishioners who will use the adoration chapel?
- Recommended Next Steps

Attachment

Commission Action Plans Which Will Require Cross-Commission Coordination/Funding and Parish Council Review

d) Dedicated Space for the Youth Ministry

Sample Questions

- What is the purpose?
- What are the benefits?
- Who are the targets?
- Do we need to dedicate an existing space or build a separate new space?
- What are the specific requirements for the space? TV's? chairs? Conversation pit? Coffee bar?
- How will the space be used?
- What kind of funding will be required?
- What will be the hours this space is available for use by the intended audience?
- Can it be integrated into the space planning design for Administrative staff?
- What time table do we need to act upon this?
- Recommended Next Steps

e) Expansion of First Sunday to all 12 Months

Sample Questions

- What is the purpose?
- What are the benefits?
- Who needs to be involved to make this happen?
- Required resources, staff, volunteers
- Are the priests in agreement? Who else needs to be consulted?
- Recommended Next Steps

f) Financial Success Workshops for Hispanics

Sample Questions

- What is the purpose?
- What are the benefits?
- What is the projected population which will attend?
- Why target only Hispanic population?
- Who will spearhead the effort?
- Who will speak?
- How many offerings per year?
- How will we measure success?
- Recommended Next Steps

Attachment

Commission Action Plans Which Will Require Cross-Commission Coordination/Funding and Parish Council Review

g) Bring Back Bereavement Ministry

Sample Questions

- What is the purpose?
- What are the benefits?
- Who will need to be involved?
- How often will it meet?
- Is there a demand?
- Who will spearhead the effort?
- Beginning when?
- Recommended Next Steps

h) Formation Commission Surveying Parishioners

Sample Questions

- What is the purpose?
- What are the benefits?
- What is the recommended plan?
- How will they be surveyed?
- How will the results differ from what was gathered in 2005 following parishioner feedback?
- How will the information be used?
- What time table?
- Are there other commissions that need to survey parishioners so that we are not going back to people too often?
- Recommended Next steps

i) Outside Speakers to Address Vocations

Sample Questions

- What is the purpose?
- What are the benefits?
- What is the frequency? Monthly, Quarterly, Bi-annually, Annually
- Who are the recommended speakers? Bishop? Etc?
- How many people would we expect?
- Where would these sessions be held?
- What funding, if any, is required?
- Who is the intended audience?
- How will we market?
- How will we measure success?
- Recommended Next Steps

Attachment

Commission Action Plans Which Will Require Cross-Commission Coordination/Funding and Parish Council Review

j) Hire a Communications Director as Part of the St. Isidore Staff

Sample Questions

- What is the purpose?
- What are the benefits?
- What hours will be required? Part-time? Full-time?
- Is it a paid position or volunteer?
- Where will they be housed?
- When would we like to hire this position?
- What are their job responsibilities?
- What skills are required?
- Who do they need to interact with?
- Etc.
- Recommended Next Steps

