

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes
October 4, 2011

Present: Father Arnold, Father John, Laura Randazzo, Lisa Sliker, Pete Gobell, Kathy Gates, Art Minadeo, Clem Purcell, Maureen Roche, Tom Kieffer, Barb Smith, Jennifer Schuberth and Rachel Barron.

Absent: Chuck Steele and Bill Sharp

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was offered by Father Arnold.

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Minutes for the September 6, 2011 meeting were approved.

Pastor's Report:

- 1. Land Sale:** Father Arnold met with the Finance Committee this week. It was decided that the best loan option would be to lock in at 7% for 14 years. As for the existing debt, there will be a substantial payment made this month in the amount of \$500,000.00. Father is hopeful that we will be able to pay another financial assessment in the spring. These deposits will help to reduce our monthly payment significantly.

The plan is to keep the following amounts on hand:

Three months operating income - \$325,000.00
Additional money for capital repair projects

Unbound - Freedom in Christ: This program took place on Sunday, October 2nd at 7:00 in the triple room in the Parish Center. There were a large number of OLPH parishioners in attendance, together with members of other local parishes. The theme for Freedom in Christ is "deliverance" with the emphasis on delivering those individuals in spiritual bondage into spiritual freedom. The heart of Freedom in Christ is identification of struggles and prayer for freedom from those struggles. It is being offered at OLPH as a regional ministry, together with St. Paul's, Resurrection and St. Alphonsus Rodriguez (in Woodstock). Archbishop O'Brien was instrumental in bringing this program to the Baltimore area. It was introduced by the "Hearts of the Fathers Ministries" at St. Agnes in Catonsville in November of 2010. We are hoping to have a quarterly event (rotating with other parishes in the area).

Subcommittees: Prior to the meeting, Laura e-mailed an article to all Council members entitled "Standing Committees" for review and discussion. The following thoughts were shared with the group:

- Kathy recommended having a committee that deals directly with parishioners and focuses on identifying the needs of the parishioners, organizing social events, etc.
- Lisa discussed the role of the parish roundtable.
- Father Arnold recommended that we have a building and maintenance committee and a communications committee. He also stressed that the Pastoral Council subcommittees are not meant to involve all of our ministries.
- Father John did restructuring of the Pastoral Council at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Essex which involved creating subcommittees as follows:

1. Communications – responsible for placing articles in the paper, updating website and posting items on facebook.

2. Evangelization – would include our present “Fall Call” initiative
3. Development
4. Grounds

There was a discussion as to whether we should have subcommittees on the Pastoral Council and if so, which committees we should form. The vote was unanimous for subcommittees and the following were agreed upon:

1. Communications
2. Building and Maintenance
3. Evangelization

Bill Sharp: Laura shared with the Council that Bill put in his resignation today. Father will look for a replacement.

Fall Calls: There will be two more group call sessions on 10/10 and 10/27 in the parish office. Completed Fall Call sheets were collected and more were distributed.

Pastoral Council Photos: There was a discussion on ways for parishioners to be able to identify the members of the Council. Clem volunteered to make a poster to hang in the narthex with photos of all of the Council members. It was also agreed that photos and contact information should be placed on the website. Art will take care of getting name tags made up. Head shots are to be mailed to Clem.

Cluster Meeting: Ideas to add to agenda:

1. Interparish softball league.
2. Faith And Light program to support people with developmental disabilities, their families and friends – Dr. Donadio

Next Meeting: November 15th

December meeting: Laura invited everyone to a party at her house on December 6th.

Closing Prayer: Father John offered the closing prayer.