

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Pastoral Council Minutes
September 1, 2009**

Present: Father Arnold, Fr. McLean, Chuck Steele, Lisa Sliker, Art Minadeo, Bill Sharp, Crissy Reid, Jackie Pellegrino, Judy DeCraene, Adam Novotny, Laura Randazzo and Barb Smith

Absent: Bernie O'Neill (Excused)

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was given by Fr. Arnold.

Roll Call: All Council members introduced themselves to Fr. McLean.

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Minutes for the June 2nd meeting were approved.

Pastor's Report:

a. Parish activity since June meeting:

1. Departure of Fr. Larry and arrival of Fr. McLean.
2. Changes in Rectory and Ministry Center – preparation of both spaces for move which will take place on Thursday, 9/3/09. Father acknowledged that a great amount of help was given by some very generous parishioners.
3. First Annual Great Softball Challenge on Aug. 23rd - OLPH vs. St. Pauls. OLPH was slaughtered. Rematch scheduled for September 27th.

b. Matters of concern to be addressed by the Council:

1. Mission Statement – Father Arnold, noting that the agenda included a discussion on the Mission Statement, addressed our need to stay focused on the Mission Statement of OLPH with our main goals being to share our love of the Lord with the world, to be a community of faith and to teach our faith to our children.

Discussion Items:

1. Crissy recommended getting the parish census updated and preparing a parish e-mail list to use in addition to the regular mail.
2. Adam expressed the need to educate parishioners as to who the Pastoral Council members are and what we stand for.
3. Chuck suggested that we update the Constitution and Mission Statement.
4. Focus on bringing back parishioners who have left the parish and getting the present parishioners to become more active.
5. Lisa recommended that we reach out to those parishioners who are not registered or not participating in ministries to help them feel a part of our community.
6. Laura shared a concern that our own parish families who are in need are not being cared for; she suggested that we make them aware that the items in the food pantry are available to parishioners, not just needy families outside of OLPH.
7. Take the focus off of the physical plant's needs and put it onto personal needs.
8. Chuck requested that Art consider organizing another Ministry Fair this year even though we had a poor turnout last year. Some suggestions were made about ways to promote the Ministry Fair. Crissy suggested that we use the census to get interests of the parishioners

and Barb suggested sending an e-mail to all parishioners beforehand with a list of all of our parish ministries and a description of each.

9. Adam suggested that we use our Mission Statement as the starting point for our focus this year, but that we should first update it to state clearly “who we are” and “what we do”.
10. Bill recommended that we focus on evangelizing our parish community versus focusing externally. If we are more deeply evangelized, it will result in external evangelization and outreach – people will want to join when they see what we have within.
11. Fr. McLean relayed his feelings that we need to be careful not to take drastic steps too quickly with respect to evangelization.
12. Fr. McLean also shared his feelings that Eucharistic Ministers should have to participate in one hour of adoration a week.

Action Items:

- a. **2009-2010 Annual Retreat:** Chuck began the discussion with his suggestions for possible dates and focus for the retreat. Possible days would be Sunday after 9:00 mass, ending before 5:00 mass or possible Friday evenings (broken up into a few sessions). It was decided that the executive committee would discuss this further on Friday, 9/4/09. As for the topic, Father Arnold recommended that we limit our discussion to the Mission Statement and not go into other business matters.
- b. **Review of 2002 Mission Statement and Constitution:** Chuck divided the Council into the following teams to report back to the Council at the October meeting:
 1. Jackie (team leader), Adam, Art, Barb and Laura – this team will review the Mission Statement and Purpose sections of the Constitution and propose changes.
 2. Crissy (team leader), Bill, Bernie, Lisa and Judy – this team will review the sections of the Constitution dealing with elected, appointed, and ex-officio members of the Council to propose changes to make the Pastoral Council more reflective of the nature of the parish and more effective in carrying out the role of the Council.

Other Business:

1. **Pastoral Leaders Orientation:** Chuck advised the Council of a Pastoral Leaders Orientation being offered by the Archdiocese of Baltimore at three different locations over the next three months. Chuck suggested that we attend as a group. The Council selected the Orientation on October 24th at St. John the Evangelist in Columbia.
2. **OLPH School Review:** Fr. Arnold shared that the Archdiocese Blue Ribbon Commission will be reviewing OLPH School on October 1st. Father said that Nancy already has all of the documentation together and ready for the meeting. He also stated that the school has reached its goal of 225 students for the 2009-2010 school year.
3. **Capital Campaign:** Fr. Arnold stated that in September he will be announcing the end of the active phase of the campaign.

Next Meeting: October 6, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer: The closing prayer was given by Fr. McLean.

