



St. Teresa of Avila Parish
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St. Teresa of Avila Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
Monday, February 11, 2008

Our Preamble: As a Catholic Christian Community, we center our life and worship in the Eucharist liturgy to listen and reflect on God's word, to bless, break and share the Body and Blood of Christ. This empowers us to care for and about one another, in joy and sorrow, all in God's name. Through the infinite guidance of the Holy Spirit, this prayer-based leadership council is formed to carry out God's Word and to serve the parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Church.

Our Meetings: Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meets each second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the St. Teresa of Avila Parish Center, 1950 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, IL. For more information about our Parish Pastoral Council, please contact 2007-2008 Chair Eric J. Fredericks at eric@ericfredericks.net. To report your absence as a PPC Member, please contact 2007-2008 Secretary Valerie J. Williams at vjwritesu@yahoo.com.

Call to Order: PPC Chair Eric J. Fredericks called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM due to snow delays.

In Attendance: PPC Members: Judie Kaiser, Elizabeth Oldroyd, Dan O'Neil, Bob Pedro, Dana Vance and John Wagner. PPC Exec Council: Chair Eric Fredericks, Vice Chair Jessica (Doloff) Schneider and Secretary Valerie J. Williams. Staff Members: Fr. Ron Galt, Administrator, Hank Matecki, Business Manager and Kristen Hempstead, Director of Religious Education. Guest: Dr. Mary McCabe, parishioner.

Absent/Excused: Dave Hilko, Tom Kinsella and Bob Wolff

Opening Prayer: Prior to presenting the Prayer of St. Francis, Bob Pedro shared some history about St. Francis. Bob correlated the call of St. Francis to serve the poor and grow the Church with the call of PPC and encouraged members to continue their passion to build God's church. Several members commented on the importance of this prayer in their lives.

General Remarks: Chair Eric Fredericks announced that 2007-2008 PPC is half through it's first year and that a lot of progress had been made to date. Eric thanked members for their commitment and also shared that Finance Chair Michael Zost, one of PPC's former Chairs, had affirmative comments about the growth and progress of PPC this year.

Approval of January minutes: Minutes submitted to members were approved as presented. Motion to approve by Elizabeth Oldroyd, seconded by John Wagner. A brief discussion update involved an update regarding Ann Zimmer's decision to resign council in January 2008 following much prayer and discernment.

Pastoral Report and Liturgical Update:

- Lenten Preparation: Fr. Ron encouraged PPC to look over the Lent and Easter Schedule from the bulletin and encourage parishioners to participate in the various liturgical events held at the Parish. He highlighted the Spanish Bible Study Group which is focusing on the Gospel of St. Matthew. IN addition, Soup and Substance, a discussion and fellowship gathering after the 6:00 pm Sunday Mass begins February 17. Topics include *The Why and How of Lent* (February 17), *Conscience and Guilt – Wanting to do the Right Thing* (February 24) and *Today's Health Care – Mind, Body and Spirit Medicine* (March 2). There will be a Lenten Retreat on three successive Wednesdays, February 27, March 5 and March 12 with a Reconciliation Service on March 5. Refreshments will be served after each session. In addition, an evening of reflection and re-training session for Liturgical Ministers will take place on Monday, February 18 at 7:00 pm in the Church with the Re-training Session at 8:15 pm. Vicki Tufano will again lead the reflection.
- Chicago Scriptural Study: Fr. Ron has approved use of the Parish Center on Wednesday evenings from September through May for three years for a certification course in Scripture Study. This generally draws 40 participants from around the Archdiocese, including religious educators, ministers of care, lectors and anyone interested in expanding their Scripture knowledge. This is seen as good community use of the Parish Center and the hope it may promote St. Teresa's Parish to new people.
- Feedback on Lenten Liturgies: Fr. Ron shared that 500 crosses had been made and only 30 were left. There is a reminder to return the crosses each Sunday and take a new one. Elizabeth Oldroyd shared that the distribution of crosses at the various Sunday liturgies brought a sense of community. Twenty-eight parishioners have signed up for the Friday online Lenten reflection.

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Religious Education Update: Kristen Hempstead advised that the burial of the Alleluia received good feedback. It will be dug up following the Liturgy of the Light on the Sunday after Easter, March 29.

- **SPRED:** St. Teresa's has an active ministry for those with developmental disabilities. **SPRED** communities gather persons according to chronological age: 6-10 years of age, 11-16, 17-21, and 22+. Some groups gather children and teens who have learning problems but do not have developmental disabilities. St. Teresa's has six friends, age 11-16, some from St. Teresa's and others from other parishes. Two will be receiving Communion this year and two will receive Confirmation. This will occur on Sunday April 13 at the 9 AM Mass.

Financial Update: Hank Matecki updated Council on the financial status of the Parish.

Assets:

- **Christmas Collection:** The collection exceeded budget by \$1,000.
- **Dinner Dance:** The event made \$150, although turnout was down 33% from last year, 65 people vs. 100. It was suggested that this year's cold weather contributed to low turnout.

Liabilities

- **Archdiocesan Loan:** The outstanding balance remains at \$110,000.

Announcements:

- **Budget:** The 2008-2009 budget has been reviewed and approved by Finance Council on Monday, 2/4/08, signed by Chair Michael Zost and Fr. Ron and submitted to the Vicariate Office.
- **Year End Contribution Letters:** Letters were mailed out to those who contributed \$250 or more in 2007.
- **Automatic Contributions:** Fifty (50) people have committed \$60,000 on an annual basis for this year, an increase of \$35,000 from last year.
- **Sunday Collections:** For the past three weekends, collections have met budget.
- **Database Update:** A handout will be distributed on Sunday, February 24, to update the computer database. Distribution for this has been pushed back for one week due to Ash Wednesday and other upcoming liturgies.
- **Survey 2006:** The results of the Parish Survey from 2006 was distributed to PPC.

Old Business:

- **Pastor Search:** Hank Matecki updated PPC on the Parish Info Night for pastors held at St. Daniel the Prophet. Seventeen or eighteen parishes are in need of a new pastor and parishes were paired up in various classrooms to conduct their own interview. The team, consisting of Hank, Deacon Hector Rivera, PPC member Tom Kinsella, Finance Council Chair Michael Zost and Music Ministry rep Rita McConville, had a Power Point presentation. Only five priests came to see St. Teresa's Parish out of 17 priests in attendance. Two of these priests knew St. Teresa's very well and are very interested. Most candidates were not a good fit except for the two interested. Fr. Ron updated that applications for pastor needed to be submitted by the end of January. The Cardinal would review these February 18-19 and the priests would get invited to pastorship. The parish should know by early March with the pastor beginning July 1, 2008.
- **Archdiocesan Leadership Day:** This was held at Guerin High School on Saturday, February 2. A group from the parish attended workshops on a variety of topics from spirituality to finance, and interacted with each other and the larger community. Judie Kaiser reported that she attended workshops on Scripture, Diversity in the Church and Evangelization of Catholics who have left the Catholic Church. She will type up notes and distribute them to PPC. Elizabeth Oldroyd attended workshops on the History of Parish Council, Domestic Violence and Addictions. The latter two workshops provided ways to incorporate information and resources into a parish as both education and ministry.
- **Young Adult Event:** The event at Dave and Buster's was attended by 10 parishioners. It was speculated that the turnout was hampered by a heavy snowstorm that night. There was enthusiasm among the attendees to continue gathering and an outreach ministry has begun. **Discussion:** Judie Kaiser led a discussion about St. Teresa joining six other parishes in the area in hosting a rotating social gathering on the second Friday of the month. The other parishes are St. Alphonsus, St. Clement's, Holy Name Cathedral, St. Michael's, Old St. Pat's and St. Josaphat's. The gathering takes place at a pub/bar with drink specials. It is promoted and advertised as a Young Adult Event but participants are generally 40+. There is no cover for the event and the venue often



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- provides free bar food/appetizers for the event. Promotion takes place within each parish but is also listed in *The New World*. Each hosting parish is responsible for finding the venue for that month. **ACTION:** Judie will email Fr. Ron the contact person for this event. A bulletin item will solicit parishioner interest about the next event and with the goal to have a parishioner coordinate the hosting event for St. Teresa's.
- Branding St. Teresa's Update: Jessica Schneider shared that the second team meeting took place tonight, February 11. The group of nine parishioners, in addition to Jessica, Elizabeth Oldroyd, Hank Matecki and Fr. Ron, is focusing on redesigning the bulletin and the website with the first distribution of materials at the Ministry Fair, April 5 and 6. The motivated group has experience in marketing, web design and advertising.
- Parish Sharing: A committee comprised of Dan O'Neil, Judie Kaiser, Tom Kinsella and Fr. Ron will meet and prepare an update for next month's PPC meeting.

New Business:

- New Parishioner Wine and Cheese Event: Fr. Ron shared that Parish staff has assembled dates to host new parishioners, with the list of invitees from June 2007. The events will take place on the following Monday evenings at 7 pm in the Parish Center: March 31, April 7 and April 21. PPC, Finance Council and heads of other organizations will be asked to attend and RSVP which dates they are available. Contacts to donate wine and appetizers will be solicited. It was pointed out that April 7 is the NCAA Championship.
- Summer Festival Committee: Fr. Ron presented that the Finance Committee suggested that a social event/fundraiser be held earlier in the summer, perhaps in the parking lot, to coincide with the Sheffield Garden Walk July 26-27. St. Teresa's gardens will be submitted as a Garden Walk participant. *Discussion:* PPC asked questions regarding need for permits and whether the event would include an activity or music. Further discussion was tabled until the Committee was formed.
- Parish Center Community Usage: Fr. Ron advised PPC that the Parish receives many requests for use of the Parish Center for a variety of events. The problems arise with inadequate clean-up after late Saturday evening events, leaving inhospitable bathrooms for Sunday liturgies. *Discussion:* An interactive discussion raised concerns about hosting events that were social (parties) vs. community events. Members indicated that in the past with previous pastors, there was a need for someone from the parish to be on site but no parishioner came forward, even with a small financial incentive. Members discussed what other parishes charge for use of the parish with an additional amount charged to hire a clean-up crew afterwards. Consensus deemed that charging an additional amount to hire cleaning crews, at an overtime expense, would probably curtail the social requests and eliminate the inhospitable bathrooms for Sunday liturgies.
- Parishioner Concern About Loaves and Fishes Outreach Ministry: An added agenda item involved concerns presented to PPC by parishioner, Dr. Mary McCabe regarding her observations and experience with the Loaves and Fishes Friday night dinners, originally targeted for homeless people in the community. Dr. McCabe, who has volunteered for Loaves and Fishes in the past, presented that many people who attend the meal are not homeless and in fact, live in low cost senior housing, receive pensions, have Medicare and other social service supports. Dr. McCabe gave specific examples and knowledge that at least 50% of those who attend are not homeless, particularly senior citizens in low cost housing, and contended that feeding those who are not homeless was a "distortion of the whole affair." *Discussion:* PPC members who had a sense of history for the formation of the ministry shared that Loaves and Fishes "is for the homeless." A lively and emotionally charged discussion ensued, involving conflicting points of view as to the intent of the Loaves and Fishes Dinners. Several PPC members took offense to the idea expressed that feeding people who don't belong is "a farce." PPC members questioned what the parish needs to consider, if the parish is serving the needs of the attendees or the needs of the parishioners; whether the intent of Loaves and Fishes has changed to become more inclusive of all those with needs; the cost of exclusion vs. the cost of inclusion both spiritually as well as financially; the issue of labeling "those in need;" and, the seeming discomfort in inviting the attendees to worship at the weekend liturgies. PPC members concurred that emotions were triggered by use of semantics and for the most part, Fr. Ron said that the ministry tries "to follow the Lord's example to serve. It is an evening of reprieve for the homeless to be fed." Many volunteers, from adults to children who accompany their parents to students involved in service hours are impacted by the experience of serving and the gratitude expressed by those who are served. Fr. Ron thanked Dr. McCabe for bringing the concern to PPC and reflected that it is an issue that needs to be addressed on a broader scale. Some further PPC exchange focused on possible solutions and the fact that the majority of the food is donated by parishioners and/or vendors. The Chair reminded PPC that as we touch individual lives, we are doing God's work and we need to remain "mindful that the Lord remains in the center of all we do."



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Involved in the discussion: Dr. Mary McCabe, Fr. Ron, Elizabeth Oldroyd, Judie Kaiser, Dan O'Neil, Dana Vance, Hank Matecki, Bob Pedro, John Wagner, Valerie Williams and Eric Fredericks. **ACTION:** Invite members of Loaves and Fishes to PPC to expand on the intent of the ministry and whether others are concerned about its mission.

- **Leadership Day:** Eric Fredericks reminded PPC that Leadership is Saturday, May 31, 2008 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. He explained that the date was switched from January, where the new PPC Executive Committee had erroneously scheduled it, to coincide with the fiscal year goals and the arrival of the new pastor. PPC members were asked to comment on past attendance. Some members provided an overview of the day while others shared the impact of seeing the involvement of so many parishioners. Eric reviewed that he has met several times with Michael Zost, previous PPC Chair for several terms and current Finance Council Chair, whose input has been helpful in determining that a four Commission model – Spiritual Life, Parish Life, Education and Human Concerns – needs to occur at this point in St. Teresa's growth. The fourth Commission separates Education from Spiritual Life and there is enough activity at St. Teresa's now to warrant the break out into two separate Commissions. Eric discussed that the word "commission" has created some problems in the past in terms of structure imposition. The model of Commissions is used throughout the Archdiocese and Eric contends it is a Pentecostal invitation, to go out to serve the parish community. The goal for Leadership Day is to energize the parish so that "everyone who comes through the door knows what we do and why," according to the Chair. Eric requested the involvement of the entire PPC in addressing the format to help parish ministries understand their role as part of a Commission. **ACTION:** The Executive Committee plus Dana Vance will meet to begin formulating the Leadership Day plan. An email will be sent to solicit additional input from prior PPC Executive Committee members.
- **Ministry Fair:** Eric Fredericks reminded PPC that this is scheduled for April 5 and 6, 2008 and involvement from PPC is expected, in addition to the committee of Dave Hilko, Dana Vance, Jessica Schneider and Fr. Ron, particularly with regard to set-up and breakdown. The committee is meeting this month and will provide feedback at the March PPC meeting.

Agenda Items for March: Leadership Day discussion, Branding Update, Sharing Parish Update, Ministry Fair Update, Loaves and Fishes Discussion Update.

Announcements: Elizabeth Oldroyd will provide the opening and closing prayer for March 10, 2008 PPC Meeting. The PPC Retreat is Saturday, February 23 at The Cenacle from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM and included continental breakfast and lunch.

Closing Prayer: Bob Pedro read a prayer from women of The Grail, a women's movement that works for social change in the United States.

Adjournment: Council collectively read the Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila. The PPC January Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Valerie J. Williams
PPC Secretary

March 7, 2008

**Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the world.
Yours are the feet with which Christ is to go about doing good.
Yours are the hands with which Christ is to bless all people now.
-- Teresa of Avila**