

**MINUTES OF THE ST. EUGENE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**February 26, 2008**

1. Chuck Hill called the meeting to order. For the opening prayer each council member read a part from a handout Fr. Koeune bought, "A reflection based on The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World from the Second Vatican Council."

2. **Attended:** Julie Bronski, Pat Conlon, Carolyn Edwards, Chuck Hill, Fr. George Koeune, Dennis Mitchell, Chris O'Malley, Raquel Perez, Lisa Vasich, and Bonnie Veth.

**Absent:** Bridget Brennan, Fr. Bill Costello, Ed O'Callaghan, Ed O'Leary, and Dolores Welsh.

3. **No Open Forum.** No guests attended.

4. **Minutes of the January 22, 2008 Meeting.** Minutes were approved as written.

**5. Pastor's Report.**

a. We discussed the letter Fr. Koeune placed in the Sunday February 17, 2008 bulletin. The letter gently challenged "our brothers and sisters to practice what they say they believe." There was not much response to this letter. Sadly the lack of commitment is not just a problem at St. Eugene's but for the whole Catholic Church. St. Eugene's Sunday grade level Masses are good opportunities for parents and children to celebrate Mass together. Perhaps we need to ask what do they get out of these grade level Masses or just what do they get out of Mass? Also Fr. Koeune will be starting a program to have parents of children making their First Communion attend religious formation.

**6. Old Business.**

**Brainstorming Session – status on ideas from the November meeting.**

a. **Advertise special liturgies.** Carolyn Edwards talked about developing a 3-fold sheet for expectant mothers. It could contain special prayers and an announcement of our expectant mother's Mass blessing. She also brought in an example of a flyer announcing our parish Christmas liturgy. Dennis Mitchell suggested that Boy Scouts could help distribute liturgy flyers to local shops and food store bulletin boards. Lisa Vasich also offered to help distribute the 3-fold for expectant mothers to area doctor's offices.

Julie Bronski volunteered to find out the procedure and cost for advertising in the New World.

b. **Parents and Children participating in parish activities and Mass.** Combining two items here, we discussed how some activities were already active. For example Grade Level Masses and children participate at these Masses as readers, greeters and bringing up the gifts at the Offertory. We are also fortunate to have the Verbum Dei Missionary Sisters sponsoring several events for older teens, such as, the Lenten Day Retreat.

c. **Establish holiday theme nights and family movie nights.** Again joining two items together and with several events already being worked on, we wanted to focus on a

summer event. The idea of an ice cream social and film was suggested. Chris O'Malley volunteered to find out when the gym would be available so we could work on scheduling the event.

**d. Encourage and publicize groups, organizations attending mass together.** Several groups already attend mass together, for example the Altar and Rosary Society. Chris O'Malley also "volunteered" to draft a letter for our next meeting that we could send to Parish organizations inviting them to attend mass as a group. It was suggested that the Pastoral Council attend mass together especially at the time of member and officer transitions.

### **Report on Parish Leadership Day Attended by Chris O'Malley, Pat Conlon and Chuck Hill.**

Chris, Pat and Chuck distributed handouts and talked about the day and the sessions they attended. This is some of the information they passed on:

Roots of Parish Pastoral Councils – Rev. Ted Stone. A Parish Pastoral Council is a Faith Group where the Holy Spirit works through us to all. The PPC is also a Wisdom Community whose job is to touch the minds and hearts of other ministries.

Polarity Management – Sr. Judith Cauley. Sister presented help in responding to ongoing and unsolvable issues. First step is to determine if the issue is a problem to solve or a polarity to manage.

Spiritual Development of Parish Leaders – Sue Garthwaite. This session addressed stages of team development and trying to balance the desire to satisfy your own concerns with the desire to satisfy other's concerns.

Within These Walls – Developing a self-guided tour of the signs, symbols and treasures of your parish.

A Prescription for Prayer – Dr. Fred Richardson, Jr., MD. Thoughts on providing health care. "Whom would Jesus deny a miracle to???"

Building *Communio* within the Parish Community – Rev. Larry Dowling. *Communio* – relationship within the Trinity... with Christ... with the Communion of Saints... with all Gods people. Father provided more information on what *communio* is, what are threats to it, and what are some practical steps to achieve it.

Administrative Vision: Building a Great Parish – Rev. John Cusick. Sometimes our churches are not inviting. How do you attract people? Some ideas: know how your parish is perceived, put yourself in the minds of the people you want to attract, and try something new.

**7. Next Welcome Mass.** June 8, 2008 at 9:30 hosted by the Spiritual Life and Education Commissions. All Council Members are asked to attend.

**8. New Business.** Fr. Koeune spoke about the possibility of obtaining a new associate. There are 21 parishes on the list for new associates with St. Eugene being one of them. However, there are only 8 associates available.

**9. Next Parish Council Meeting.** Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

**10. Closing Prayer.** Fr. Koeune read the Closing Prayer from the handout he distributed earlier.

Respectfully submitted,

Raquel Perez