

Pastoral Council - Minutes of the January 7, 2009 meeting, Roetter Hall, Room 1

In attendance:

Fr. John Paul Forte, Pastor  
Jeanie Davis, Chair  
Kenia Milloy, Vice Chair  
James Floyd, Secretary  
Stephanie Nissen  
Edwin Jose  
Charlie Maguire  
Seira Matsushima  
Tam Nguyen

Jesse Duran  
Tara Almazan  
Andrew Griffin  
Vic Zampa  
Patty Stewart, Staff  
Brian Buesker, Webmaster  
Absent: Fr. Joseph Sergott

Meeting called to order at 7:24 pm. Several YAG members were excused due to a concurrent YAG planning meeting.

**1. Opening prayer (Andrew)**

Prayer from Saint Augustine

**2. Review of minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting on December 3, 2009**

Minutes approved as complete.

**3. Pastor's Report**

John Paul: Wished the council a Happy 2010 and new quarter. All members should get the Winter Quarter brochure (available online and at church) and be familiar with the community's events. Get involved in at least two things that one was not as familiar with. There needs to be a focus on the broader ministry of the community – to know the why behind activities.

Building Tomorrow – we are now moving into Phase II, and there will be an upcoming planning meeting to do visioning for Phase II.

The winter quarter Student Minister retreat was being held this weekend (Jan 9-10). The focus of this quarter's formation retreat would be on communicating with each other, and the different styles of communication.

In winter quarter, there is a desire for increased hospitality. Winter quarter is usually the toughest one for students, as all are coming off of a Christmas break and returning overwhelmed and exhausted. This quarter, there are real opportunities for hospitality ministry.

Reminder: Make sure to take care of our weekly needs – spiritual, physical, etc. Be mindful and avoid burnout.

Bishop's visit: A visit during spring quarter is preferred, but winter quarter is possible. Plan is to have Bishop Brom meet with Student Ministers and with Pastoral Council to learn more about the community, so SMs and PC members need to be familiar with the community. The last time the bishop visited, discussion focused on the Pastoral Plan. Also, there will be a visit from the Dominican Province by Fr. Mark Padrez.

Questions answered related to the bishop's visit: The visit will be advertised, and will be at a 12:30 pm mass. The proper way to address the bishop is "Bishop". The level of hospitality after this mass should be a little bit more than usual.

A new Catholic Community website is in development and should be unveiled soon.

Reminder: remember not to create more work for ourselves, but to take care of ourselves.

Vic brought up the choir's special fundraising efforts and asked why not do a special fundraiser for the church. JP responded that this was something on the staff's radar.

Jeanie shared her testimony on the importance of keeping centered, and finding that time to meet our weekly spiritual needs. She shared how she set a 20 minute block of time per day for prayer and meditation (using a book of daily meditations) and found it really beneficial. She recommended starting with 5 to 10 minutes and working up. JP reiterated the need to create space and time for thought and reflection, as a way to build up energy needed for ministry. Patty recommended choosing a specific timeslot to use.

Continuing his report, JP brought up some upcoming events and activities:

- Coffeehouse – Feb 6 at the Price Center, for the whole community
- Christian Unity Week – Jan 18-25. Joint Taize Prayer with the Episcopalians on Jan 19, at 7pm in the Worship Center. Jan 24 will be a pulpit exchange (12:30 mass only)
- Burke Lecture – Jan 21. Burke Luncheon/group dialogue on campus Jan 22. Speaker is Dwight Hopkins, on a topic about "What do we know about China?"
- Lenten prayer opportunities: Ash Wednesday (Feb 17) – meal and prayer; Lenten Twilight Retreat and Day of Service, Stations of the Cross, several Taize prayer nights

#### **4. Committee/Liaison Reports**

##### **a. Student and Student Minister**

Tam: the students were returning from break, the Winter Student Retreat was coming up on Jan 29-31 and Coffeehouse on Feb 6.

Charlie: The Advent Giving Tree was a huge success – the donations took over the Student Minister room and required multiple trips to deliver. Social Justice is taking over the Interfaith Shelter on Jan 15-16 at Roetter Hall, and they need volunteers to cook 4 meals, and stay overnight. The shelter rotates during the winter months between participating churches, each allowing for a two-week stay for homeless persons. For the upcoming Day of Service (Feb 27), there is a need to identify short-term projects that need volunteers. Currently, Glenn's Breakfast, and a meal trip at St. Vincent de Paul (also happening on Jan 21 breakfast), and a house needing set up with Catholic Worker have been selected. Changes to Habitat for Humanity's volunteer system have precluded our participation.

##### **b. Young Adult & Grad**

Stephanie: arriving from the YAG Core planning meeting. Upcoming events include a ski trip, a day retreat, and the revival of the Second Sunday Supper program.

##### **c. Resident Community**

Kenia: Christmas was wonderful. The upcoming Burundi Friends International concert is coming on Feb 20 at 6 pm (\$20, \$10 students). The choir is going to be participating in the

concert, and attendance is encouraged to help raise funds to be used directly to support one of the world's poorest countries. The group needs to get their information into the bulletin.

## **5. Chair Report:**

### **a. Highlights at Mass, from meeting minutes**

Reporting on PC highlights at mass worked well in December. It keeps the community informed and helps get community input. The highlights from the January meeting will be presented on Jan 17 masses. Jesse volunteered to present at the 12:30 pm mass, while Charlie volunteered to present at the 5:30 pm mass (no 7:30 pm mass that Sunday due to holiday weekend).

Reminder: Pastoral Council announcements should precede regular announcements after Communion.

### **b. Mission Statement**

Checking in on how we are living out the Pastoral Council mission statement. Vic read the statement, and the council reflected on its meaning and implementation.

Prophetic dialogue: Vic sought group clarification on what was meant by “prophetic dialogue” – prophets vs. prophecy. Jesse thought that it meant having God talk through us. Charlie pointed to the need to be a voice of conscience in a university community of science – be a beacon in the forest. Patty focused on the need for dialogue, being a voice to our teaching and the need to be aware and be current. Vic felt that “prophetic dialogue” was then not precise enough. Kenia saw that the role was to begin dialogue, and to continue dialogue. One of the things she likes about this community is that dialogue is allowed and encouraged, to help provide balance.

Who is in the community?: James brought up how the statement calls for “families and individuals” and how that fits or doesn't fit to YAG and Resident Community. Kenia brought up the Children's Liturgy and how the Care ministry works for families. Andrew pointed out that more work needed to be done to reach out to campus faculty and staff. Kenia suggested working with the Chancellor. JP noted the need and challenge in targeting Catholic staff, especially those who choose not to advertise their faith. Tara suggested using the staff associations to promote the community. JP suggested a faculty-only gathering – “build it and they will come”. Andrew suggested making such a gathering at lunch time, since after work, most staff just want to go home. James brought up the issue that some faculty might not want to be in a student community, in order to keep their personal and professional lives separate. Kenia felt that we only needed to let staff know that we are here, and are a different experience than a regular parish.

## **6. Financial Committee Report**

No report

## **7. Old Business:**

### **a. Spring Quarter Luau**

When working with the Bishops for scheduling, we need to suggest dates, not simply ask for which dates are open. Last year, the luau was combined with the Appreciation Mass – was this too late in the year? Winter quarter cannot fit the Pancake Breakfast and other winter quarter activities were needed. It was suggested that the PC members have a skit for Coffeehouse; a community picnic; or have a Super Bowl party (Feb 2).

### **b. Easter Vigil Celebration & Easter Brunch**

Easter Vigil Celebration: desire to make it bigger – more refreshments, but not a full meal. “Meat, chocolate, and soda” as both offered items and as a way to promote it. Since most of the Pastoral Council attends the vigil, food can be brought by the PC and Hospitality committee.

Brunch: to be held after 12:30 pm Easter Sunday mass as a “Linner”. Seira and Tara volunteered to coordinate the Brunch. Charlie reminded that Easter (April 4) is also a Storefront night.

**c. Community T-Shirt**

Andrew brought up the idea for a T-Shirt design contest. He will take the lead on the shirt development and will draft the rules for the design contest. The contest needs to be advertised at Jan 17, 24 and at Thursday Night Dinners. Because shirts were not in the budget, they will be produced after pre-orders are taken. Shirts need to be ready by the start of Spring Quarter.

**d. Purpose for January / February Town Hall Meeting**

JP felt that we aren’t there yet for having a town hall meeting. We need to be ready to move into a Pastoral Plan, and think on the value of having a meeting.

**8. New Business:**

**a. Parking at 12:30 pm Mass**

There was a concern from the community that parking at the 12:30 pm mass is at capacity. Overflow parking is available at the far end of the neighboring community church’s lot, however those parking there should not cut through the church property, but instead use the sidewalk along the street to get to Good Sam. There is also potential of using the lot at a nearby bank.

**b. Making space in pews at Mass**

There was a concern for the community that the 12:30 mass had too many people standing, and that there should be an effort to either squeeze into the pews, or provide more chairs along the back. Staff will seek permission from Good Sam on setting out the chairs, and then returning them after mass.

**c. Teaching students how to “Bus to Church”**

There was an idea from the community to encourage students to use transit to get to church by having Student Ministers help new students learn to bus to church. Charlie detailed the existing program of promoting transit through the publication of bus schedules for getting to mass, and the need to have an outreach group of more than just the student ministers to get this to work.

**d. Speak at January Masses**

Covered during Chair’s Report – January 17: Jesse at 12:30, Charlie at 5:30.

**e. Other items**

There needs to be another announcement regarding intincture practices during Communion. There is no mini-ministry fair during winter quarter, however YAG can set out its own table after mass when they wish.

**9. Closing Prayer**

Jesse led the council in a closing prayer.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.