

Quarterly Joint Leadership Meeting

April 13, 2009

Attendees: Pat McEahern (Chair), Frank M. Harritt, Leanne Sprenger, Debra Yarbrough, Louise Lederhos, Marge Meis-White, Phil Kroeker, Marty Hoskins, Don Lutz, Jim Cillesen, Don Slavin and Jason Pasioneck

The meeting held in the Fleur de Lis Room, began at 7 PM with the Opening Prayer by Pat McEahern.

Meeting Brought to order by Pat

Introductory Remarks: The Chair asked the group to consider a change in term limits for leadership positions within the Church Ministries. Is a term limit of 2 years preferred over a 3 year term? Are the 3 year terms causing burnout and ineffectiveness? In looking at the Strategic Plan developed in 2007, we are not yet done with our Strategic Plan. The Adopted Plan was again passed out to the group for review and the intent of discussion at the next Joint Leadership Meeting. The Chair suggested that developing Community at St. Joan of Arc will be a priority for our Parish. Do we need to place more of a concentrated effort on the Welcoming and Greeters group to be more inviting to potential new parishioners? Maybe we can consider small gatherings or events for new parishioners (“Pizza with the Padre,” for example).

Leanne Sprenger-Worship and Liturgy: There will be a meeting in the next few weeks to plan for the coming liturgical season and to discuss and review the recent Lenten and Easter seasons. There was good feedback on the liturgies from many parishioners. Leanne stressed that the Easter Vigil is a very important event for our new Catholics and is something that we need to promote to the Parish to increase attendance. As a Parish, we need to rally behind our new members with our support and encouragement. It was suggested that perhaps the Vigil could start at an earlier time, but it was pointed out that liturgically it must be held after sunset. It was suggested that we make one or more special bulletin and pulpit announcements to encourage attendance. It was also suggested that we send a special invitation to prior year RCIA members to attend the Easter Vigil in support of the new class. The group agreed that we should be proactive in our advertising of the Easter Vigil event. It was pointed out that Immaculate Heart of Mary actually has their Vigil starting at 3 a.m., and they often have 400 parishioners in attendance.

Elizabeth Krick-YAC and Youth Formation (13 to 18): Starting at the end of the summer, there will be a designated Youth Mass beginning at 5 PM or 5:30 PM on Sunday. Father Joseph has yet to decide on the definite time. The Parish Survey taken a few years ago was very specific about this need. This new Mass will require extra ushers, readers, greeters, musicians and liturgical planning. The Youth Mass will be using the “Life Teen Program” as a guide for homilies and music. Within this program is also included a curriculum guide to use for middle school, confirmation and post confirmation groups. At the sunrise service Easter morning this year, five of the youth provided the music, and it was favorably received. Adoration and Benediction will be incorporated into the Youth Program. Vigil, Praise, Adoration and Reconciliation services have been very popular with our Youth. Lisa Heaton and her daughters will be attending the Pure Fashion Show and they will provide input as to our interest in having such an event to raise money for the WYD in 2011. The Archdiocese Newsletter will also be used to find ideas and activities for our Youth. There are 15 post-confirmation youth going on the retreat this year to share their Faith Journey Experiences with our new Catholics.

Louise Lederhos-Leadership: The Leadership team members are Louise, Don Lutz and Bob Fischer. There seems to be a real visibility problem and we need to consider ways to introduce ourselves to the Parish. Past efforts to be available at Parish events and visiting tables asking for suggestions and input have not been as successful as desired. We may want to reintroduce the Suggestion Box in the Church to encourage Parishioners to participate. We might consider a “Leadership Sunday” and develop another survey asking how we are doing in specific areas. We need to also leave room on the survey for written suggestions. The Joint Leadership Group was asked to help develop this short survey. It was suggested that perhaps a very specific 5 question survey be

developed. In our last surveys, the operation of the Parish is at about a B+ level. Perhaps we should consider such a survey once a year. Louise volunteered to spearhead the process and perhaps a good weekend to do such a process would be Pentecost Sunday, prior to summer vacation time. One member was concerned as to what the expected result was for such an effort. If we are too specific in our questions and limit the answers, we may be asking for and getting a skewed result. Another felt that 5 questions are not enough for a truly effective survey. He felt that the questions should be presented in a more open ended way. "If I were Pastor of the Parish, I would do _____?" or "If I could talk to the Pastor about something it would be _____?" Another member felt that the Leadership team needed to take all of the suggestions into consideration and come back to the group with a plan at the next meeting.

It was questioned whether the Parish and all of the Ministries do in fact have a five-year plan in place. If there are plans, do we have them from the Ministries? This could be helpful in development of future planning and more specifically budgeting. We need direction from Father Joseph and perhaps we need to start over and let next year be year one. It was pointed out that the Parish is actually on a 3-year plan and that plan will end on December 31st of 2012. It was noted that in looking at the Strategic Plan, one of the issues was the effectiveness of the homilies. Maybe we can suggest refresher courses in homilies or invite visiting Priests periodically to keep things fresh and break up the monotony for our clergy and the parish.

Pat McEahern-Formation: There is no one at this time heading this part of the Strategic Plan. Pat suggested that perhaps this area is no longer viable, as the group involved the YAC, ELC and RE and that is covered by others, such as Elisabeth, Diana and Sister Margaret.

Jason Pasionek-Community: This area has lagged in the last 3 months. As soon as other obligations have been completed, there will again be an emphasis in this area. It was suggested that we need to re-invigorate ourselves and when we ask Parishioners to become involved, they need to be told upfront what the commitment involves. It was pointed out that this goes back to the discussion of term limits. It was suggested that in limiting terms, we would be automatically infusing new ideas into our Ministries. Some terms, such as the Pastoral Council and Finance Council tenures (3 years) were determined by the Archdiocese.

Don Slavin-Evangelization: There has been much discussion about the idea that in many situations, the children are often much better catechized than their parents. There is a Paulist Brochure entitled, "Worshipping with Your Children" that we have ordered and that material will be available for the next mailing to the Parish. Dave and Jo Johnson are putting together a Pilgrimage to Marian sites Europe in October, and Father Joseph will lead the group. Announcements have been ongoing in the weekly bulletin. Ginny Finrock has been working to get more greeters.

Jim Cillessen-Finance Council: The Chairman for the Finance Council is Dave Brazeau. Our need as always is to increase our offertory. It is up 10% compared to the same time last year. Our total Parish debt is \$275,000. As of the first two weeks in April, we have met 63% of our budgeted needs, so we should have no issues meeting our April obligations. Capital repairs will be included in the budget next year. Our entire tithe obligation will be paid out by fiscal year end. One member asked about refinancing our debt, and Jim suggested that that has been put on hold, as it no longer appears to be a major issue.

Marge Meis-White-Social Outreach: It was suggested that we consider having special monthly events for newcomers: breakfast, dinner or perhaps wine and crackers. We might designate tables at the coffee and donuts and KOC breakfast to meet, greet and welcome newcomers. Word of mouth is very important in welcoming new parishioners. Maybe we can start introducing newcomers at the beginning of Mass. We also need to put together a small welcome gift with the Church directory in it. It was asked how many new parishioners we were getting on a monthly basis and reported that we average 3 to 5. It was suggested that we need to have the welcoming gifts always ready for distribution. Marge volunteered to head up this effort.

The Easter Basket effort was spearheaded by a group from the Parish and was a very successful first effort. The plan was to hand out 75 baskets, but gave receive enough Parish response to provide 110 baskets in our first year. All of the donations went through the Arvada Food Bank. It was suggested that next year we could expand our efforts to sister churches and their particular needs. We are encouraged to make sure to tell this success story to the Parish so that they understand that their involvement is meaningful. We were able to touch 437 people with these 110 baskets, and Father Joseph will be announcing this great news to the Parish after upcoming Masses.

Pat McEahern-Charitable Contributions Committee: The CCC has allocated 5% of the weekly offertory. The remaining 5% has been deferred and tracked, and the Stewardship shortfall is scheduled to be made up by fiscal year end. Marty Hoskins, Phil Kroeker and Pat are the members of this committee. Marty pointed out that most of our contributions are made to local charities and ministries. The contributions are published in the bulletin once a month so that Parishioners know where their stewardship dollars are going. Marty also suggested that we need to stay away from fixed monthly contributions that “tie our hands” from reacting to more immediate needs. One member stated that he understands that it is not always possible to be consistent in allocations to ministries, but felt that better communication was needed to insure that the ministries do not count on allocations for their budgeting. It was pointed out that our Parish contributed 2% of the total Archdiocesan collection for Peter’s Pence, and that we are the largest single contributor to that effort.

Pat McEahern-Stewardship: Stewardship Sunday will be every 4th Sunday of the month. The homily will relate to Stewardship and we will have a speaker from one of our recipient groups or ministries to talk about how our Parish’s efforts and generosity have been a Blessing to their work. On April 25th we will have a speaker from Mary’s Maternity of Motherhood speak at all Masses. There will soon be a large vase placed at the front of the sanctuary near the ambo that will house our stewardship commitment cards. Follow-up letters (approximately 1,000) went out April 3rd to those not responding to our initial efforts. We have received a few responses. This effort is also helping to clean out the database of non-participating names and inactive members. The Stewardship Appreciation Dinner was a great success with a capacity crowd. There is still need of organizing talents and vocations within our Parish database to help us in our ongoing efforts to find people that fit in special ministries and projects.

Closing Prayer offered by Louise

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 PM

Minutes submitted by Debra Yarbrough