

**ST. MARK PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes from meeting March 26, 2009**

Attending: Fr. Jim Sichko, Greg Gaerke, Ben Massaro, Linda Clark, Nicole Stuart, Jim Swartz, Billy Simon, Beth Grant

The March 26, 2009 meeting of the St. Mark Pastoral Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Faith Sharing**

The Scripture for Sunday was from John 12:20-33. Discussion surrounded Jesus response to the Greeks who said to Phillip: "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Phillip told Andrew and together they carried this request to Jesus. Did Jesus answer their question? Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat...

**Review/Approval Minutes**

The minutes from the February 24th meeting were reviewed, amended, and approved.

**Introduction of Guest**

Our guest was Brian Walsh who gave an excellent report covering the Newman center current activities and future plans and goals. For example, the rosary is being said before mass. There are various fellowship activities: roller-skating, hiking & bowling to name a few. Awareness of these activities is being promoted on campus via email and advertising. Also, there is a friendship mass where students invite non-Catholics to attend mass with them. The students are trying to raise funds through projects like the pancake breakfast for charitable endeavors. Brian hopes to develop a student Leadership Committee to foster students taking a greater role in the stewardship of the Newman Center. Also, he is applying for a grant to continue the development of the worship space.

Father expressed his sincere gratitude to Brian for all of his hard work and dedication to the Newman Center and the students it supports.

**Review of Parish Goals**

Nicole Stuart reported on the progress of the development of Sheltering Arms, a process for facilitating communication to parishioners in case of disaster. Three levels are currently being considered. Level I: a small localized disaster, which might be communicated to the Parish through the use of the Phone tree; Level II : a disaster which has a broader local which would involve the use of Cell phones (texting); Level III – a full disaster involving the complete loss of power and services. Should this occur a core committee will meet at a location (TBD) within 24 hours of a disaster. More details will be provided by the committee at the next PC meeting.

Billy Simon reported on the progress for a church newsletter, and had several issues to share with the council. Linda Clark will get 7 names of possible contributors and give them to Father who will contact each of them. He in turn, will give their contact

information to Billy who will meet with them. The goal will be to have the first newsletter published in December 2009.

### **Pastor's Update**

- Ice storm / Wind storm – Insurance covered damage done by the storm and downed trees, however, it did not cover the removal of the trees.
- Altar Space – We discussed relocation of the crucifix, the altar, the ambo and the tabernacle. This will be done in time for the Easter Vigil mass.
- Web site updates – The Saint Mark website has been modified to include a prominent banner for Mass times as well as a link through which we can submit our email address to the parish data base.
- Property adjoining St. Mark – The house next door to the Parish offices is to be razed by the City of Richmond as a training exercise for the Fire Department.
- Confessions – Will be held after mass beginning on Easter.
- Blue Mass – There will be a mass for all service personnel; military, police, fire fighters and all first responders. To be held April 1, 2009.

### **Parish Life**

- Holy Week – mass times for Holy Week.
- First Communion – There will be two services on Mother's Day, one for the school children at 8:30 and one for the CCD children at 11:00.
- Parish Survey – A summary letter of the school survey from Father Sichko to the Bishop was read to the PC by Father.

### **Closing Prayer**

- Closing prayer was led by Linda Clark

Pastoral Council adjourned at 8:37pm