

**St. Francis of Assisi Pastoral Council  
Minutes**

**16 January, 2010**

**Present:** Joe Mitcho, Father Charley Miller, Paul Scott, Bob Jones, Mary Battista, Vernell Woodson, Margaret Bruni, Tricia Barber, Art Slavinski, Ed Knapp, Sheri Briggs, Osvoldo DeCoo, Pat Wesley

**Absent:** Heather McHugh, Mary DiSalvo, Pat Sodo, Anne Tunney

Refreshments were provided by Paul Scott and Sheri Briggs led the opening prayer.

**Approval of the Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to accept the November minutes. Minutes were accepted. (This motion took place toward the end of the meeting).

**Mary's Shelter:** At the Council's request, Lisa Crocker gave the Council a 15 minute presentation on Mary's Shelter. Mary's Shelter has two homes located in Fredericksburg and has a mission "to assist women in crisis pregnancy situations by providing housing and all necessary support in order to bring the baby to term, thereby preventing an abortion". The shelter is run by an all volunteer staff. Lisa asked that we consider one or more of the following actions: Monetary support via a monthly stipend, an invitation to the director to solicit funds on a Sunday, and/or volunteer support by parishioners. In addition, Lisa provided a comprehensive list of materials which included the stories of women who were served by Mary's Shelter. The Council thanked Lisa for her presentation and assured her that it would take up her requests at its next meeting.

**Fr. Charley asked two Parishioners to give a three minute presentation of VOICE - Vince Musashe and Sharon Danner**

Prior to the meeting, the Chair had shared background materials from each of the presenters. Mr. Musashe's presentation was against the Parish's funding of VOICE. Mrs. Danner spoke in favor of funding VOICE. Following the presentations, the Council went into closed session for discussion. After discussion the Council came out of closed session and voted.

A 'YES' vote indicates that the Council member ACCEPTS the Finance Council's recommendation to fund VOICE for the 2010 -2011 year. A 'NO' vote

indicates that the Council member NOT ACCEPT the Finance Council's recommendation to fund VOICE for the 2010-2011 year.

A simple majority of Council members voted YES. The actual vote count was one abstention (with an indication that they were one with the pastor), eight (8) votes YES, six (6) votes NO, and one member who was absent without notice (did not attend nor notify the Chair of non attendance nor submit a requested vote before the meeting.)

The Chair will submit this recommendation to Fr. Charley. The Council has now closed discussion on VOICE for the 2010-2011 year. The Chair will inform Mr. Musashe and Mrs. Danner.

### **Old Business:**

- ❖ **Visioning Committee-** Paul Scott indicated that the Visioning Committee continues to work and expects to report on results at the February meeting.
- ❖ **Election Committee-** Mary Battista reviewed the schedule of events for the Pastoral Council election process. A candidate form was shared with each member and members were encouraged to submit names that might be contacted. The chair indicated all the names that had been referred so far.
- ❖ **Francis House-** Joe Mitcho reported that a Francis House committee had been formed and met to look at the current location, programs, and staffing of Francis House and to begin visioning its future. The committee will meet again in early March.

### **Ministry Reports:**

#### **Pastor Update: (Ed Knapp for the Pastor)**

- Installation of the HVAC is complete.
- Next major maintenance project will be resurfacing and expansion of parking.

### **Faith Formation:**

- Margaret Bruni announced that she would be leaving her position as Director of Faith Formation effective June 30.
- OCIA needs sponsors. A call will go out in the bulletin.
- We will announce Lenten small faith groups
- High school students will be going on the March to Life on Friday morning
- Two nights of celebration are upcoming'
  - Mardi Gras
  - St. Patrick's party.

**Outreach and Social Justice:** Joe Mitcho for Anne Tunney

- ❖ The parish is sponsoring a bus for the March for Life on Friday January 22. Departure is at 11:00am
- ❖ Next weekend (1/23/24) parishioners will be given a chance to sponsor 20 children from our sister parishes in Peru. Pictures and details will be on the bulletin board.
- ❖ January 28 is Catholic Advocacy Day in Richmond. This is a great opportunity to visit with our representatives in the State Capitol. More information is on the bulletin board.
- ❖ The diocesan Haiti collection will be taken up this weekend.
- ❖ Clarence Thompson will be giving a presentation to the Senior citizen group on “A Visit to China: on Thursday at noon. All are invited.

**Parish School:** Dr. Barber

- ❖ The diocese will be lobbying the new State Secretary of Education along with the Bishops of Virginia for tax credits for private and Catholic schools.

**Business and Finance:** ED Knapp

- ❖ The parish raffle with All Saints Church is coming up.

**New Business:**

- ❖ *Review of Christmas liturgies and events:*
  - Two members received an email from a parishioner asking the Council to look at how notices of cancellation may be more easily distributed to parishioners. The snow during the Festival of praise created some traveling problems. The school and Religious Education have phone, Web, and radio and TV announcements.
  - Members also discussed whether the timing of liturgies for Christmas allowed enough time for incoming and outgoing traffic. The musical preludes seemed to contribute to the problem. The Chair will discuss these issues with the Business Director and Pastor.
- ❖ *Fr. John's 25th anniversary*
  - Mary Battista asked if anything was planned for the 25th Anniversary of Fr. John's ordination. Joe said he'd look into it.

Next Meeting: February 20 at 9:30

Refreshments: Mary Battista

Opening prayer: Vernell Woodson

The meeting ended at 11:30