

Staff Meeting Minutes
Holy Apostles Catholic Church
Colorado Springs, Colorado
February 6, 2008

Members present: Sam Gioia, Audrey Sujkowski, Pat Van Horn, Mike McGrady, Mary Superata, Mary Parsons, Fr. Paul Wicker, and Deacon Mike Leverington

Absent: Deacon Chuck Matzker and Fr. Joe Damhorst

Maryanne Wright, recording

- I. The meeting was opened with a prayer and gospel readings for February 10, 2008.
- II. Review modifications of last week's minutes: None.
- III. Pastoral Administration (School of Stewardship)
 - A. Sam asked that all staff members listen to the Co-Worker's Podcast. He sent the information about the website to each member last week. Fr. Paul gave a short history of the efforts of the former pontiffs to affirm laity involvement. Unfortunately, laity involvement was never empowered in the past. The structure is now in place to not only encourage, but empower the laity in today's church. As far back as the 1800s bishops have tried to set up a structure within the church to enable the laity to enter into a more active role in the church. Support from Rome was not forthcoming and there was a general lack of respect for the laity as ministers within the structure of the church. Sam cited the book: "Externally Focused Church", which is primarily protestant in philosophy, has many ideas that can be used for our "catholic" view. Sam illustrated how the needs and dreams of the community, God's plans and the gifts of a parish all intersect in service. The Venn diagram model can be applied to the Visioning Body and the Focus Groups, the pastoral ministries and the disciples with the intersection showing "service". The Visioning Body is starting to meet with all of the Focus Groups and this will hopefully lead to a better understanding of the needs of the parish and a more accurate parish vision by the Visioning Body.
 - B. The Returning God's Gifts Diocesan Campaign was discussed. Some parishes show the DVD and collected the commitment cards on the same day. This seemed to be an efficient way of presenting the campaign.
 - C. The first new ministry meeting is scheduled for February 10th at 1:30. This is the Coffee Shop Ministry. From the group of volunteers, two separate groups will be determined: the planning group who will determine costs and needs and overall planning and the operational group who will fulfill the service needs. Information is included in the bulletin.
- IV. Liturgical Ministries (School of Sacramental Life Celebrated):

- A. Audrey has included an explanation of the Lenten Liturgies in the bulletin. The article explains why the environment is different, and the different responses used in the Lenten liturgy.
- B. The announcements were reviewed. The Marriage Group's Dinner/Dance will be announced, there is a second collection, blood pressures will be taken in the Bride's room after all masses, the Coffee Shop Ministry will be announced, RGG campaign will be reminded to the parishioners, the Chastity Rally for the middle school and Preschool registration will also be announced. The Rite of Election at the Cathedral will be announced. Audrey will cross-reference items in the bulletin so that parishioners will be able to get further information from the bulletin.
- V. Formation Ministries (School of Faith Encountered):
 - A. The Rite of Election is February 9th at 10 am at St. Mary's.
 - B. March 1st is Intergenerational Day.
- VI. Youth Ministries (School of Vocational Exploration):
 - A. The Youth Chastity Rally will be held at Holy Trinity.
 - B. Mike and Fr. Joe will try and go to South Dakota to see about the Youth Mission to the Indian Reservation later in the year.
 - C. Boy Scout Sunday was February 3rd. The ceremony went fairly smoothly. The Girl Scout celebration is scheduled for March 10th. Girl Scout cookie sales will be starting soon in conjunction with the March 10th liturgy.
 - D. The Youth Participation in the Super Bowl Party for the homeless went well. Two hundred eight bags of clothing were prepared and distributed.
 - E. Planning for the middle school lock-in at Holy Apostles is continuing.
 - F. There was a short discussion regarding how the Youth Minister can incorporate the importance of stewardship as part of growth as a mature member of the Body of Christ. The theme that the United States Council of Catholic Bishops has determined for this year, Encountering the Living Christ, is the starting point for tying together the idea of being a good steward, not only with monetary contributions, but with one's talents and time. Fr. Paul suggested that the youth be allowed to witness at the masses. These personal experiences are a very powerful and motivating force for all parishioners.
 - G. There was a discussion on the time scheduled for the youth programs on Sundays. Times may be adjusted to allow lunch. At this time there is no fellowship event that allows youth and adults to get together. Some type of lunch event would probably work better than doughnuts and coffee at the noon liturgy.
 - H. Some ideas were discussed on how the youth can start to be involved in ministry. Dave Knight, one of our parishioners, has done a great deal to promote programs that get the youth involved in church activities. Mike will speak with him in the future to incorporate his ideas and programs into the Youth Ministry activities.
- VII. Outreach Ministries (School of Pastoral Care and Justice):
 - A. Super Bowl Party went well. Paul Wacker was instrumental in organizing and coordinating donations. Fr. Mike Fones was there. The Mayor

dropped by and spoke with Paul. He was very supportive and grateful for all of the hard work to make the event a success. There was a short discussion on how some scheduling conflicts had to be resolved at St. Mary's. This was the 5th year of holding the event. Cooking was done at the Marian House kitchen this year. The new Soup Kitchen should be operational next year. This should simplify the preparing, cooking and serving of food.

- B. The Blood Drive is scheduled for June 1st.
- C. Pat had a prayer shawl from a ministry in Mexico which is a group of women who feed 62 needy children by making shawls.
- VIII. Charismatic Ministries (School of Called and Renewed): Chuck Matzker was not present, but Mary Superata said that she had spoken with him regarding the staff workshop at the end of January. Deacon Chuck wants to give a power point presentation to the staff on what Charismatic Renewal is.
- IX. Preschool (School of Parental Formation):
 - A. Registration is this week. The Diocese has distributed a very nice package from Sandia Marketing.
 - B. Mary will be speaking to MOPS on February 28th to encourage registration in the preschool.
 - C. Presented a book of documentation that is kept for accreditation. The qualifications of the staff are very high and the amount of documentation required for accreditation is extensive.
 - D. Catholic Schools week went very well.
 - E. Mary would like to do a spiritual development day for her staff. The date for this will probably be in April.
 - F. Mary discussed record keeping for her students and how the goals are given for the children and that there are periodic checks to make sure the goals are being met. The differentiator between this preschool and other preschools is the faith element. It is important to start training these young children early in the faith to make sure that they are disciples in training.
 - G. Mary discussed the Job Description for her position, the Director. The chain of command was discussed and she will continue to work on the description. Since she will be retiring, we will continue to discuss when the job should be advertized and where we will advertize.
 - H. The registration form on the website should now be current for this year.
- X. Ordained Ministers.
Mike Leverington.
 - A. Discussed the political turmoil in Kenya. The situation impacts the way food is being brought to the people and this directly affects his mission. He asked that the people in Kenya be in our prayers.
 - B. Mike mentioned that the recognized speaker, Scott Hahn, will speak at St. Francis Parish on May 17th. He encouraged the parishioners to go.
- XI. Pastors Issues.
 - A. Awareness Sunday will be held on Divine Mercy Sunday (March 30th). There will be a training session for all volunteers

- B. Approximately 90 people attended the first Biblical Justice series that is being presented during Lent.
- XII. Bulletin board requests.
 - A. Catholic Home Educators requested that their flyer on the Annual Rocky Mountain Catholic Home Educators conference be placed with the pamphlets. The request was approved.
 - B. 2008 senior Vitality, a Mercy Center project. Approved
 - C. Bible Study for Married couples as requested by Hank and Rose Stamps. Approved.
- XIII. Fundraising/Vestibule Use Requests. Benet Hill Raffle approved for February 16-17.
- XIV. Commentator/Guest Speaker Announcement Requests. As detailed in the Liturgical Ministries section.
- XV. Bulletin Insert Requests: None.
- XVI. Second Collection. The mission coop appeal will sponsor a priest from India. Fr. Paul has determined that June 21-22, August 16 -17 or August 22-23 would be the best dates for Fr. Raj to visit with his appeal.
- XVII. The meeting was closed at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryanne Wright