

Infant Jesus Parish Council Meeting Date = March 21, 2013

Father Joseph Szolack – Pastor	Steve Graham - Chairperson
Father James King	Patti Graham
Father Felipe Doldan	Jessica Fahey – Vice Chairperson
Deacon Nicholas Danze	Frank Dunleavy – Recording Secretary
Deacon Robert Kenney	Tammy Gatto
Sr. Michele DeGregorio	Barry Hills
	Bob Law
	Tom Petri
	Jim Janco
	Colleen Phifer
	John Philban

NEXT MEETING DATES FOR PARISH COUNCIL:

April 25, 2013

May 23, 2013

June 27, 2013

July 25, 2013

Fr. Szolack's Comments

Evening Mass – suggestions included times of 5:30pm, 6:00pm, and 7:00pm.

- Fr. Would be seeking help from a local retired priest
- It was suggested to consider a youth Mass – Jessica felt that she could get her youth ministry involved (ie: door greeters, lectures, etc.)
- It was suggested to do a survey one weekend at all Masses and at the Knight's breakfast in April
- Target start for the new Mass is May 2013

Restoration of the Chapel

- New lights are already in place – brighter
- Design should be a mission style
- A design/architectural company is ready to do artist renderings for a fee
- Do we have a capital fund campaign for this project?

School needs new doors at the boiler room

- We may be able to do a cost-effective patch project versus all new doors

Small Faith Sharing Groups

- Spiritual Committee is moving along in the process

Young Mothers Group

- Jenny is developing a plan

Plan for vocations

- There is presently only 8 seminarians – we need to think of ways to focus on Vocations with our young parishioners – this is a crisis in our church!

Evangelization

- We need to work on a plan, including door to door work, setting up committees and more

Youth Ministry (Jess)

- Jess talked about getting the youth involved in a new evening Mass
- Plans are underway for a summer youth congress

Executive Committee

- Jess volunteered to be the Vice-Chairperson
- Frank volunteered to be the Secretary
- It was requested by Steve that all committee reports or agenda items be emailed one week before each meeting so that they can be included in the official meeting minutes
- The Council must submit official meeting minutes to the Diocese of Camden – so detailed notes must be taken/submitted
- Frank offered to record all minutes from now on and transcribe notes for future meetings
- Jessica requested more prayer at Council meetings (ie: rosary, etc.)
- Steve is working on the pages for the Parish Photo Directory

Building and Grounds Committee (Barry)

- Chapel lights in place – wiring needs work
- Parking lot needs to be repaved
- St. John Vianney church needs waterproofing work – seal the base
- Parking lot at St. John Vianney is complete

Spiritual Committee (Patti)

- Soup and scripture was a success – good crowds
- Small faith groups needs to get going
- Our parish is hosting a Divine Mercy Sunday after Easter
- Fr. King will be presenting his India trip soon
- Planning an African Mass

Finance Committee (Bob Law)

- Discussing a Capital Fundraising Campaign
- Working on a plan for funds willed to the parish

Guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils

Diocese of Camden

Fr. Szolack – “I need the Council to be the eyes and ears of the parish – I want feedback on what’s going on in the parish.”

Introduction

These guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils are intended to assist pastors and Parish Pastoral Council members understand their respective roles and form Parish Pastoral Councils (PPCs) that provide effective leadership in our communities of faith.

In the Diocese of Camden, PPCs serve as the ordinary planning instrument that a parish uses to formulate its pastoral plan. Informed by the Diocesan Vision statement and by the parish’s Mission Statement, the pastor may consult the Council about any practical matters such as the implementation of local pastoral priorities which will in many cases resonate with the diocesan pastoral priorities which are Liturgy, Lay Ministry, Lifelong Faith Formation, Priestly Vocations, Youth and Young Adults, and Compassionate Outreach.

Purpose

PPCs provide a way for pastors to consult their people. The PPCs “examine and consider all that relates to pastoral work and to offer practical conclusions on these matters, so that the life and activity of the People of God may be brought into greater conformity with the Gospel. In this description, we find three tasks assigned to PPCs – *to examine, to consider, and to recommend.*

Pastor

The pastor of the parish presides over the Council; seeks Council members’ advice on pastoral matters of major concern; encourages prayerful reflection and consensus; listens to and gives very serious consideration to the Council’s recommendations in the decisions he makes.

Council

The members of the PPC offer their wisdom prudently, with regard to major pastoral matters connected with the life and mission of the parish. They examine, consider, and make recommendations after prayer, careful study, and open discussion. *Council members do not have an agenda or meet independently of the pastor.*

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of the *Pastor, Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson* and *Secretary*. The Executive Committee meets with the pastor to gather and prepare the agenda for the PPC meetings, to prepare materials and minutes, and set aside evenings or retreat days for spiritual enrichment. Members of the Executive Committee may be appointed by the pastor or may be discerned by the council members from among their membership.

Membership Criteria

The recommended number of elected or appointed members ranges from 9 to 15, depending on the size of the parish. Members are chosen to “reflect the wisdom of the entire people of God”. They should be representatives of the whole parish and reflect the various cultures, ages, geographic areas, and interests of the parish. They are not members simply by virtue of a leadership position in a parish organization.

Qualities:

The work of the PPC is a ministry that needs leadership qualities:

- The essential ability to “examine, consider, and recommend”
- A parish member in full communion with the Catholic Church
- Persons of prayer who desire spiritual growth
- Persons who have some knowledge of what it means to be Church today – the people of God who can discern the work of the holy Spirit in the signs of the times
- Are open to learn about purpose, spirit, and theology, of the Church documents
- Understand the ongoing mission of the Church – bringing Christ to the people and the people to Christ
- Are committed to the future of the parish, its pastoral priorities, and ministries
- Have a good communication, listening, critical thinking, and consensus building skills and are generous with their time and talent
- Recognize the gifts of others and are able to collaborate with them

Expectations

- Attend PPC meetings if at all possible
- Participate/attend in Parish events to make a Council presence known
- Examine and consider parish issues presented by Pastor, and participate in recommendations