

St. Gerald Parish Pastoral Council – Special Meeting

December 13, 2012

St. Gerald School Library

Present: Sharon Bissen, John Proski, Mary Sheridan, Joe O'Donnell, Mary Morss, Ryan Sevcik, Joe Kalina, Jared Franzluebbbers, Joan Luebbert

Also Present: Father Owen Korte

OPENING PRAYER

Father Korte: Presented an overview of presentation given to the Finance Committee from the Cavan Corp, consultants used by the Archdiocese of Omaha and other parishes in the Archdiocese to assist parishes in increasing giving using techniques developed and successfully implemented.

The Pastoral Council was provided information about the Cavan Corp and the opportunities they identified to increase giving by identifying specific segments of the parish population and providing communication specifically directed more individually to the different groups.

St. Gerald data was provided to the Cavan Group, which they analyzed and used in making their recommendations. The Finance Committee recommended moving forward with the Cavan Group and paying for the services out of parish savings initially and then repaying the savings account before using the new revenues that will be produced by the campaign under the Cavan leadership.

Motion was made by Joe O'Donnell to support to support Father Korte and the Finance Committee's recommendation to engage the Cavan Corp. and seconded by Mary Sheridan. Unanimously approved the Pastoral Council.

Leadership Meeting Recap

Observations

- Approximately 60 leaders attended the meeting – slightly less than first meeting.
- Date for meeting was difficult for many. A very busy time of year. Difficult to get people to commit.
- Several comments that topics seemed very similar to the first meeting. (They were the stated Long Term Goals.)
- Needed more specific direction on what was needed from them at the meeting. Some did not receive materials before the meeting.
- Continue to improve organization of the meetings.
- Questioned if four meetings a year are required.

Working the Plan Comments

1. Help people feel at home in our Parish
 - a. The most frequent comment continued to be personal invitations and personal phone calls.
 - b. Actively promoting your committee/group.
 - c. Continue to call/follow-up after the first "no". Do not become a pest, but continue to invite.
 - d. Listen and value people's opinions.
 - e. Utilize calling captains. Same captains call same people for a period of time so they get to know each other.
2. To improve communications within our parish
 - a. Website improvements (less information, ease in access and ease in navigating) Text alerts
 - b. On-line sign-ups
 - c. Keep website updated and accurate
 - d. Assure meetings have an agenda and stay on task
 - e. Take charge of you activity – accountability
 - f. Plan ahead – communicate frequently prior to activity
3. To increase our evangelization efforts
 - a. One-to-one invitations to events such as Fish Fries, Festival, Auctions, Athletic Events

- b. Continue to actively greet at the door
 - c. On-going adult ed opportunities
 - d. Maximize utilization of Ralston Recorder
 - e. Postcards – advertise activities in other church bulletins
 - f. Promotional information posted in local business, apartments, etc. where allowed.
 - g. Keep Marques updated – when no events put catchy quotes up – very visible corner at 96th & Q – utilize the traffic
 - h. Provide mass times to hotels in proximity to the parish
 - i. Use Catholic Voice and Spirit Catholic Radio to promote activities
 - j. Improve outreach to non-Catholic spouses and non-practicing Catholics
4. Improve the financial state of the parish and the viability of our property
- a. Groups should be transparent
 - b. Not possible to over communicate
 - c. Keep people involved and get new people involved
 - d. Is there a way to show the actual dollars saved by volunteer involvement? The K of C uses a tool to determine a monetary value of the services provided by members. Is there a way to show the parish the savings provided by volunteers working in the office, IT, School, Environment, kitchen, security, etc.

The council agreed with Father Korte's recommendation that the Leadership Meetings be reduced to three. The final meeting date will be determined after checking the calendar in the office and Father Korte's schedule, but should probably be held in April.

At the final meeting each group would be asked to provide feedback of the actual activities of their committee to reach each of the goals.

A thank-you should be provided to all those attending this meeting, including a recap of the meeting for all and the date of the next meeting. Joan will look into a group email to all who attended and provided email addresses.

Overall, a good meeting and now action plans should not only be developed but acted upon.

CLOSING PRAYER/ Adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 10, 2013 – School Library