

**Church of the Presentation - Pastoral Council**

**Minutes of Meeting on: 11.21.11**

**Attendees:** Father Bob Stagg, Denny Foley, Mark Cron, Bill Brown, Tom Farley, Rosemary Ervin, Marsha Simchera, Shannon O'Donnell, Sue Furey, Don Whittam, Wally Kennedy

The meeting commenced with an opening prayer and reflection by Wally Kennedy.

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

**New Business**

**Finance committee report by Rosemary Ervin**

Income from church operations exceeds expense fiscal year to date (July through early November) and also exceeds budget.

Collection declines are offset by other revenue gains; expenses are lower than last year driven partially by energy cost reductions attributed to the use of the new solar panel system.

Extraordinary item charges exceed last year primarily influenced by costs associated with parking lot paving.

Miscellaneous topics were discussed: (1) A rebate is expected for reaching 137% of the AAA goal (2) Labyrinth costs could be covered by donation (3) Super Bowl ticket sales should generate additional revenue.

**Green Faith report by Denny Foley**

The parish is seeking certification from Green Faith; this is a two year process. A six month status report was presented; this is included several topics:

A community mission statement has been created; our vision revolves around "fostering a deeper understanding of the Sacredness of our Earth as God's Creation."

A letter announcing our involvement in Green Faith has been sent to Archbishop Myers requesting approval to proceed; no objection is anticipated.

Various communicative methods have been used to inform parishioners of our engagement with Green Faith; our communicative plan is fully transparent via website.

A parish audit was done as a certification requirement. Purpose was development of a baseline from which an action plan can be developed. Areas covered were Environmental Justice, Spirit, and Stewardship.

An initial draft of our two year action plan was forwarded to Green Faith. This is a “living” document in which a time based plan is outlined.

### Young Adult Recap by Shannon O'Donnell

In response to a need for more parish involvement by young adults, a “brainstorming” session was held with representatives of this target group on 11.18.11. The goal of this meeting was sharing ideas about ways to get more participation by young adults.

Shannon recapped several concepts/ideas presented at this get-together:

Young adults (ages include 20's, 30's, and early 40's) is a broad term; there are sub-segments to this grouping (e.g., singles, married with children, married without children, divorced). This segmentation must be recognized as each may have different needs.

Possible reason for fall-off from church is minimal understanding of next step in spiritual journey.

Reaching out to young adults when they have need for church (e.g., during Family Faith or first communion preparation) is an advisable tactic.

Young adults seek community to share common experiences. Activities catering to this group should be developed.

Participation in young adult centered activities should foster an environment for social outreach and spiritual development.

Several possible activities suggested during “brainstorming” were mentioned. These included: an Antioch re-union, invite a friend to church, a young adult retreat.

A committee has been formed to develop a planned approach to this issue. Additional young adults are welcome to join this team. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for mid-December.

### Pastor's Report by Father Bob Stagg

Census data about Catholic population and mass attendance trends for the Archdiocese of Newark were reviewed. During the decade ending 2010, population grew nearly 2%; this trend is characterized by a decline in the white population, and significant growth among Asian and Hispanic Catholics. Over this period mass attendance has had a significant drop (16%).

**Other miscellaneous topics were discussed: (1) the Jubilee year is concluding; the last retreat opportunity was held in November; the Jubilee mass is scheduled for December (2) implementation of the the new Roman Missal starts on 11.27 (3) NOBS is tentatively planned for 10.26.12 (4) 01.15.15 is set as a day to educate the community about the Labyrinth.**

**Final Comments**

**The next council meeting is 01.09.12**

**Don Whittam concluded the meeting with a prayer.**