

St. Stephen Church
Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
January 20, 2010

Members Present: Fr. Dan Rocco, Joe Haas, Chris Hearn, Liz McHugh, Joey Scavuzzo, Ryan McCann, and Terry Modzier. **Ex Officio members:** Sr. Bernadette Leahy SSJ, Sr. Ruthann O' Mara SSJ, and Pat Higgins.

- Opening prayer by Fr. Dan Rocco
- Meeting called to order by Joe Haas at 7:05 pm
- Minutes Read and Approved by Committee members.

- **Old Business:**

Surveys - Review of the statistical data. Initial aspects extracted from survey to be focused on at this time are: Liturgical components, Youth and Young Adult ministries, and Social gatherings for the parish family. These areas will foster the spiritual growth of the parish and promote cohesiveness within.

- **New Business:**

- Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Focus: Assisting our parishioners on our journey to a closer relationship with Jesus; Act as advisor to Fr. Rocco; Be involved with all the ministries; Identify with St. Stephen as our role model, and how that can assist us as a Parish, as we grow in Faith; Identify ourselves to the parishioners and encourage open communication with all parish members; Encourage parishioners to bring any concerns or questions to the PPC so they may be addressed and/or resolved therefore averting a potential problem at a later date; Reach out to members of the parish, both active and inactive, to establish connections that will build up our church to a strong, vibrant component of the Body of Christ.

- Discussion on the attributes of St. Stephen and how to incorporate his traits into the daily lives of the parishioners; Many suggestions were offered on methods of sharing information about St. Stephen, such as write ups in the weekly bulletin, on our web site, or as displays in the church lobby. No definitive decision reached. Of importance is to demonstrate to the parishioners how they are already like St. Stephen in many ways.

- St. Ruthann is working to reorganize the Pastoral Ministries, and will share information on the new "Spiritual Life Committee" at the next PPC meeting. Once this task is completed, cross membership between committees will be established.

- St. Vincent De Paul Society: Any interested parties will be referred to St. Peter's church at this time. Sr. Ruthann will contact previous chairpersons for further information. Of note: Per Fr. Rocco, St. Vincent De Paul society is a National Organization which operates with local chapters.

- Joe Haas opened a discussion with the hope of moving the parish toward healing. Fr. Rocco suggested an Open House / Town Meeting forum in which the parish would share ideas, focus on our strengths, and establish a path on which we can all move forward. Sr. Ruthann voiced concern about too much emphasis on the past, this led to the discussion on the future direction of council and electing new members, possibly as soon as May 2010.

- Synergy between the Church and School: School Board works under the direction of Mrs. Higgins (Principal), who reports to the Pastor, Fr. Rocco. Current school board is being reorganized and Mrs. Higgins is in the process of selecting new school board members. The focus on each selection is the expertise they can bring to the board.

- Fundraisers: Promote fundraising in terms of supporting our parish mission and giving towards St. Stephen's future. Items discussed: Yard Sale and Raffle as the two major events for the Church. Currently there is no activity scheduled for the church; the school is working on "The Night at the Races" and the "Joe Corbi" pizza sale. The possibility of resuming the sale of Script was mentioned, as this was seen as somewhat profitable.

- There will be a "Welcome" reception for Fr. Daniel Rocco on both Saturday February 13th after the 4:30 pm mass and Sunday February 14th after the 10:30 am mass in the school hall. Light refreshments will be served. Please stop in and give Fr. Rocco your personal welcome! The contact people for Saturday are Sr. Ruthann and Mrs. Higgins while for Sunday it will be Liz McHugh, Chris Hearn, and Terry Modzier.

- Appreciation Dinner: The date of April 17, 2010 was selected. Further details will be discussed at the next meeting.

****Additions from previous meeting minutes****

*- Procedures for Pastoral Council: Meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the rectory basement. A one page summary of the minutes from each meeting is to appear in the parish bulletin the following Sunday.

*- Youth Mass: Fr. Chuck, Chaplin at Camden Catholic High School, is interested in saying a Youth Mass on Sunday evening at 7:30 pm. There are many details to be settled before this can be scheduled. Additional information to follow.

- Meeting adjourned @ 9:20 pm.
- Closing prayer by Fr. Rocco
- Next PPC meeting **TUESDAY February 16, 2010 at 7:30 pm** after the Rosary, in the Rectory meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Modzier