

Our Lady Help of Christian Parish  
Parish Pastoral Council  
May 28, 2009  
7:30-8:30pm

Present: Fr. John Sassani, Anne Marie Carr-Reardon, Jen Bader, Sebastian DiFelice, Lisa Francis, Kara O'Malley, Rosemary Seibold, Joe Smiroldo, Michael Starr

**Presiding:** Anne Marie Carr-Reardon

**Minutes:** Lisa Francis

**Opening Prayer:** Rosemary Siebold

**Review of minutes:**

Anne Marie asked if Rosemary was still planning a food drive this summer when needs tend to increase because children are out of school for the summer. The Parish staff did approve the food drive initiative and a note will be in the church bulletin listing 4-5 items that food pantries are in need of. The food drive will take place in June.

Parishioners continue to give gift cards regularly in the weekly collection baskets.

The Thursday evening Lenten mass was very well attended. Anne Marie suggested adding an additional weekly mass during evening hours for individuals who cannot attend during the week in the morning.

**Staff Updates:**

Kara reported that confirmation will take place on May 31<sup>st</sup> for 65 students. Work camp will take place in Port Jervis, NY from June 28<sup>th</sup> –July 4<sup>th</sup> and there is a need for one chaperone. Chaperones oversee groups of young adults working on building porches, handicap ramps, painting etc.

Youth group will continue until the end of June and Kara and Tim will be taking 6 youth leaders to a week long retreat this summer.

Rosemary reported that the Baptism Annual Thanksgiving mass will take place on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Religious education will begin on September 13<sup>th</sup>. It takes approximately 100 catechists to run the program smoothly. Rosemary asks that PC members assist in either recruiting catechists or teach a class.

**Pastor's Report:**

Jennifer Suehs-Vassel will join the parish as the new Pastoral Associate. She holds a degree from the University of Notre Dame and has a background in social justice.

Tom Leahy died unexpectedly last week. He was given a beautiful funeral service and his family is grateful to the parish for taking wonderful care of him.

**Financial Report:**

Collections have consistently remained at the \$9,000 level for the last month. There was a \$2,000 tithe given to the parish recently. Thirty-two people have signed up for electronic giving.

The ARISE program evaluations for second season are excellent. Many parishioners have expressed interest in the summer program to take place on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings. The program begins on July 1<sup>st</sup> and this program's simple format will use scriptures from Sunday mass.

**Election process for new council members:**

Sebastian, Dan, Marcia, Joe and Gisela have all completed their term on the PPC.

Three individuals will be chosen at the 10am mass this Sunday. Fr. Sassani will appoint two others to the PPC.

**Unfinished Business:**

Dan, Sebastian and Joe have submitted a proposal to create a communications group to help facilitate communication within the parish community. The proposal calls for an overall examination of current practices and the implementation of new processes by staff and volunteers.

The church health team will focus on the topic of loving relationships in September. Parishioners have expressed that they find it difficult getting to know other parishioners and developing relationships. Some thoughts to explore are:

- Expanding and making better use of the coffee hour. Various ministries could help and use the opportunity to recruit as well.
- Forming a group of parishioners to assist with the preparation of mass while staff mingles with parishioners.
- Encouraging people to introduce themselves before the beginning of mass, Eucharistic ministers and liturgical readers wearing name tags and introducing themselves 10 minutes before mass.
- Preaching more about loving relationships and making it a parish wide theme for the following year.