

Cluster Council Minutes

September 13, 2011

Attending: Tony Decker, Elaine Thornton, Peter Lancia, Vickey Saniuk, Ken Giaquinto, Susan Bowden, Paul Colpitts, Mary Duffy, Pennie Kimball, -----, Father Lou Phillips, Father Greg Dube, Michele Bernier, Denis LaFrenniere

Father Greg opened the meeting with prayer.

Ken Giaquinto stated the meeting's purpose as determining where we are in our various parishes in the clustering process: where we want to go and how to get there.

Michele Bernier presented a report regarding the Pastoral Life office:

Both a Funeral Guide and a Wedding Guide have now been produced for the cluster

The new translation of the Roman Missal will present challenges as we approach Advent

A review of goals for the 2011/2012 year was presented

Volunteers will be needed at each parish to accomplish the goals and a brief discussion of ways to attract volunteers resulted in the suggestion that a master list of potential volunteers could be developed at each parish, with personal invitations to individuals to encourage participation.

There was a suggestion to produce a list of "best practices" used in each parish and shared in the cluster.

Brief discussion of "cultural inclusion" and the need to plan for the next decade to provide a welcoming environment to everyone in the cluster.

A discussion of the cluster structure and the potential to reconsider the cluster's form/function resulted in the following discussion areas:

Creating a canonical parish – essentially an administrative entity

Creating a statement of purpose: begin with what's already working in our parishes and consider what areas provide advantages to the parishes working individually, vs. areas where the cluster needs to work on everyone's behalf

Understanding that our neighborhoods are not our parishes

This may be an appropriate time to reconsider the cluster's structure

A discussion of the current financial issues at Sacred Heart/Saint Dominic resulted in the following items:

The collection is consistently short of the published amount needed to keep the parish open;

The majority of parishioners are not in a position to contribute more;

A dissenting group of parishioners is unwilling to contribute anything to the upkeep/maintenance of the church, but does contribute specific social justice projects;

Possible solution would be to close the church and chapel, hold one mass each weekend in the church hall and use the hall for all other community gatherings.

For the next meeting (October 11), the council was asked to focus on potential solutions to the financial issues at SH/SD.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Broydrick