

Cluster 21 Pastoral Council meeting

November 16, 2008

St. Louis Parish Hall

Present: Peter Lancia (chair), Sr. Theresa Rand, Mary Duffy, Pat Wallace, Fr. Richard Bertrand, S.J., Pennie Kinney, Lee Kimball, Msgr. Paul Stefanko, Fr. Fred Morse, Ray Rier, Fr. Kevin Martin, Dan Chuhta, Lori Arsenault.

Minutes:

1. Introductions, new members, Mary Duffy and Pat Wallace from Sacred Heart / St. Dominic, sharing the position; and Lee Kimball from St. Louis.
2. Corrections made to the October minutes. Corrected copy to be posted on the Web site, replacing the draft.
3. Discussion of policies, and term limits on the council.
 - a. Term limits.
 - b. Agreed that individuals can serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms. They could return after a break of at least one year. This statement to be inserted after the statement about staggered departures.
4. Choosing of a vice chair tabled until January
5. Coordination of events and worship opportunities
 - a. Discussion about planning events that may interfere with individual faith gatherings. Encourage planning the same kind of program across the Cluster, but hold them in each of the individual communities. Be sensitive to Mass times when planning common events.
 - b. Question about the mechanism for determining which activities are Cluster-wide and which are individual parish events, the choice being to come up with new things we can do as a cluster, or examine what we are already doing to determine where the overlaps and opportunities are.
 - c. Proposal made to have an additional committee for shared worship. Volunteers are Dan Chuhta, Sr. Theresa and Fr. Fred.
 - d. Faith Formation group is working well together, and have agreed to use common materials in each of the parishes.
 - e. Cluster First Reconciliation meeting – had two meetings in October, one at St. Peter and one at Sacred Heart / St. Dominic. Attendance was good for all parishes except Cathedral. This year, First Reconciliation will happen Sat Dec 6 at St. Peter's at 9 a.m., Dec 13 at Cathedral at 9 a.m., and Dec 14 at SHSDP at 11:30 a.m.
 - f. "Advent Sunday," an Advent family celebration November 30 at Cathedral. Invitation was extended to the parishes to have it be a Cluster event. 11 – 1 p.m. in Guild Hall.
 - g. Thanksgiving
 - h. Parish Mission retreat
 - i. Christmas Masses
 - j. Holy Week and Easter
 - k. Next Cluster event: Cluster 21 Advent Penance Service, December 17, 7 p.m. at St. Peter's. **Action: Fr. Kevin will send details to Lori for the Newsletter.**
 - l. Cluster Prayer Line has been opened up to all in the Cluster, with a notice in the Newsletter.
 - m. RCIA led by Betty Cyr - RCIC at Cathedral is available to others. Meets on 6 p.m. on Thursday, with Craig Bossie and Laura Feeney.

- n. Cathedral School update – auction raised over \$35,000, but well below the goal of \$70,000. Group got together to brainstorm ideas for new events. Getting ready for Christmas Concert, Dec 19 at 8:30 in the morning at Cathedral. Also, there is a nice collaborative going on with Cheverus High School with seniors doing social justice activities, helping in classrooms from 8:10 - 10:15, and then they go over to St. Vincent's to serve lunch.
- 6. Discussion of Newsletter
 - a. Continuing to publish Newsletter weekly
 - b. How schedule appears –weekly Mass schedule should be on the back of the Newsletter each week. Full schedule once each month on the back.
 - c. Possibility of common cover, what are the essentials for a front cover
 - d. **Action: Bring the following to the communications committee:**
 - i. Common cover, what are the steps?
 - ii. Eventual goal for a single bulletin – what are the steps?
 - iii. Advertising, writing, etc.
 - iv. Bring a new bulletin front to the January Council meeting
- 7. Mass schedules
 - a. Schedule of weekday and weekend Masses in Cluster 21
 - b. Looked at alternate plans at having less priests, should we be faced with that. The council agrees that the Cluster has to have a plan in place so that it doesn't come as a surprise to anyone. Diocesan personnel board now has gaps in assignments, and are currently down 8 priests, a level that was not expected until 2010. Re-looking at the Cluster plans, and revamping personnel.
 - c. It's important to let people know what we will need to do if we have to, starting with weekday Masses.
 - d. The council looked at the Masses available in the city and had a discussion about which ones may be essential and why. Where might there be overlap or special needs?
 - e. Discussion about letting people know the attendance; discussion about our perception about how many priests we have available to us in Portland, and what that means for the Church's mission in this Cluster.
- 8. Evangelization package passed out by Fr. Kevin, as a reference tool for brainstorming and organizing the Cluster. It may make a good focus piece for a town meeting, perhaps the town meeting that the Communications Committee had wanted to do.
- 9. Update was given on clustering in other places in the Diocese.
- 10. Next meeting, January 11, 2008 at St. Peter's. Agenda will be:**
 - a. Bulletin
 - b. Mass Schedule
 - c. Evangelization inventory worksheet
 - d. Business coordinator and pastoral life coordinator

Respectfully submitted
Lori Arsenault
November 17, 2008