

Tuesday, September 8, 2009  
PPC Meeting Notes

In attendance:

Fr. John Hennessey  
Ted Polk, chair  
Paul Aichele, vice-chair  
Paula Boll  
Gerrie Neville  
Russ Lehocky  
Ann Oakley  
Randy Nipper  
Sue Zimmer  
Jim Connell  
Bill Zorc  
Rena Calanca

Absent:

Roland Catherall  
Mike Harrison  
John Jurecko  
Gerry Salzman

Ted Polk opened the evening with a brief explanation of the PPC tradition of Breaking Open the Word, followed by a prayer, the Scripture reading and spontaneous reflections. The notes or minutes of the August PPC meeting were approved, followed by further comments from Ted Polk about his style of communication through email. A sign-up sheet was passed around for folks to sign up to provide hospitality, environment, and Breaking Open the Word for upcoming meetings.

Fr John Hennessey mentioned his upcoming health procedure before reporting to all, and especially for the sake of the new PPC members, what some of the potential options for the MilPark Mall may be. Fr John also defined the role of the Parish Pastoral Council by providing us with some background and history of the Parish Council, one of the outcomes of Vatican II. Prior to the existence of the Parish Council, the pastor or parish priest was responsible for every aspect of the parish administration. Vatican II reminded us that we are ALL Church: clergy, religious, and lay people alike, and called for all of us to take responsibility for the life of the parish. Since the inception of the Parish Council, that organism has evolved and continues to evolve. Currently, an ongoing conversation with a Parish Pastoral Council whose members know what Church is all about, who know who we are as Church, and what we are about as Church, is of great benefit to Fr. John. He sees the PPC as servant leaders who have vision for the future and who are aware of both the needs of the parish and the working of the Spirit within the parish. We are reminded to be good listeners to our fellow parishioners in order to bring to Fr. John's attention any concerns or issues that may interfere with our parish mission. PPC members are people who know what their gifts

are and who are willing and able to share those gifts with parish; they are people who are willing and able to be present at a variety of parish activities and to engage in conversation with members of the parish and to serve as a resource for both Fr. John and the members of the parish. Fr John further explained that we function, not as a corporate board, but as a small faith community, in which we maintain confidentiality and arrive at decisions through the process of discernment and consensus. We are charged with the task and privilege of affirming all of those who are in service to our parish, and with preparing well for our monthly meetings and our additional parish commitments.

Ted Polk commented that his goal is to see to it that the PPC is an group that adds value to the parish by being the eyes and ears of Fr. John, and by supporting him. He also mentioned that some of the staff members, a vital part of the Servant Leadership of the parish, would like to have a conversation with Fr. John and the PPC about the evolution of some of the commissions with an eye to revisiting their structure.

Russ Lehocky reported briefly on the Task Force which is currently undertaking a process of parish inventory based on the book "Growing an Engaged Church." He reminded us about the seminar for all of the Servant Leadership people, including staff, Finance Committee, Commission Chairs, Men's and Women's Councils, and PPC, to be held on Friday, Sept 18 from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, Sept 19, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. In preparation for that seminar we will all read "The Engaged Church" and / or "Living Your Strengths". Both books are available through Russ Lehocky.

Before ending the meeting, we gathered around Fr. John to thank God for what Fr John means to our parish and to pray for his medical procedure this week.

Other items on the agenda will be rolled over for the October meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rena Calanca