

**Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes-Tuesday May 16, 2006**

**Attendees:** Pat Downing, Sidney Vand, Father Danny, Sonia Schuetze, Paula McLaughlin, and Teresa Clark.

Guest: Jessica Watts – Nursery Coordinator

Meeting began at 7:40 pm in P1.

**Opening:**

Prayer led by Teresa from *A Cry for Mercy* by Henri Nouwen.

**Summer meeting times:**

The group agreed to change the Council meetings to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday for June and July only so that the CRHP members may participate.

**Action Item: Paula to make the changes to the Parish calendar.**

**Ministry and Organization Guidelines Review:** (This conversation was put on hold with the arrival of Jessica Watts then resumed.)

Discussions began re: the role of the Stewardship Council –Pat relayed his discussion with Deacon Allen. The question was is the Stewardship Council in charge of “feeding and watering” or just for recruiting?

Their mission statement was read and part of their mission statement states “will coordinate and facilitate activities that provide the community with a means of giving their time, talent and treasure.” We agreed that this statement was fairly broad and at times there is a possibility of the Councils working together very closely. After discussion there was consensus that the Pastoral Council owns this document but because we would work with the Stewardship Council especially in the area of active ministry/organization (Form B), their input was requested prior to finalizing this document. Their inputs are currently being sought and will be considered but ultimately, the Pastoral Council will release the final document and coordinate the activities specified in this document. The thought is for the ministries to return Form B to the Council and a copy would be made for the Stewardship Council for their use. The Stewardship Council then could use this information for not only historical information but also to enhance their activities.

**Action Item: Paula will ask the Stewardship Council to review the Ministry and Organization Guidelines draft revision A and provide comments back to the Council by June 19<sup>th</sup>. VIA e-mail and cc: Sonia.**

**Action Item: All Council members to review Ministry and Organization Guidelines draft revision A by the next meeting so that we can work on the document.**

**Nursery:**

Jessica Watts the Nursery Coordinator came to ask for help from the Council. Fr. Danny gave a brief history of the nursery at SVdP Fr. Danny also spoke about the challenges of our growing parish (900 families) with limited staff and facilities.

The purpose of this discussion was to provide the Council with awareness and come up with ideas to help this ministry. Jessica explained of the need for the nursery but the lack of volunteers and Ethics & Integrity qualified volunteers prevents this ministry from being offered consistently. There was a good initial response of volunteers but the volunteers have tapered off resulting in inconsistent Nursery staffing. Jessica also talked about what she had seen at other parishes—passing a basket for events needing babysitting and paying a person to run the nursery. The average age of the children requiring child care in our parish is between 1 and 4 years old and the current average attendance is six children (Jessica stated that this number would be much higher if the nursery were offered regularly). The volunteers are asked to serve once every 14 weeks (depending upon the number of volunteers), have a schedule available and the volunteer is called the night before to remind them of their schedule. We also discussed the possibility of a “paid” head sitter versus having an all volunteer staff and what this action may mean financially to the parish (addition of a line item to the budget). Next year’s budget is currently in work.

**Action Item: Jessica was asked to talk to various parishes to find out what people are doing and obtain, if possible, any written nursery guidelines. In addition, she has been asked to speak to the administrative/business person(s) at the parishes to find out about any issues that they encounter with having a nursery.**

**Jessica will be in contact with Paula by the week of June 12<sup>th</sup> so that Paula will be able to put on the agenda for our next meeting.**

**The meeting concluded with a prayer.**

**The next Pastoral Council meeting will be held Monday June 19th at 7:30pm.**

Respectively submitted by  
Sonia Schuetze  
Scribe