

**Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes-Monday, August 22, 2006**

**Attendees:** Pat Downing, Paula McLaughlin, Deacon David Boren, Father Danny, Sidney Vand, Sonia Schuetze and Teresa Clark.  
Guest: Danette Musser – parishioner requesting a Neighborhood Communities group

Meeting began at 7:35 pm in P1.

**Opening:**

Deacon David started the meeting with a prayer.

**Neighborhood Groups Ministry:**

Parishioner Danette Musser came to the Council to seek input on the possibility of starting a Neighborhood Communities group in the Parish. She explained that St. Elizabeth in Plano is breaking down parishioners into smaller geographical areas (neighborhoods/zip codes). Each area has a coordinator to reach out to this community by inviting them to social events (BBQ, wine & cheese, etc.) This would allow parishioners who live close by to get to know each other.

There was discussion as to whether this group might duplicate any existing organization or ministry and the consensus was that it does not. Also, discussions on how to keep this organization going once it is started as well as possible benefits to the parish was also discussed.

**Action Item:**

**Danette will do some ground work to determine what the SVdP neighborhood breakdown would be (and possibly identify potential coordinators) and report back to the Council with more information.**

**Reconciliation times:**

After the last meeting additional reconciliation times were suggested: Tuesday 5-6pm or Wednesday 6-7pm AND possibly adding ½ hour Saturday to make it 2:30-4pm. The Bishop has already asked the parishes to look into adding one additional time for reconciliation. There was some discussion about various times as well as possibly having some of the reconciliation take place in the sacristy (depending upon the time, there may not be enough privacy if held in the office).

**Action Item: Fr. Danny will think about the times and will have times/dates for the Council at the next meeting.**

**Pulpit Talk:**

Council members were approached after the Natural Family Planning (NFP) pulpit speech given by a new couple several weeks ago. The concerns were that some of the information given during mass was not appropriate for younger children to hear and offended some people. Currently, the pulpit talks are not reviewed and there was some discussions regarding this. Pulpit talks have not been a issue in the past.

**Action Item: Fr. Danny will speak to Robert Tavarez who is the person who contacted Father regarding the pulpit speech for NFP. Father will relay to Robert some of what was discussed at the meeting.**

**Parish Tithe:**

This topic was initially discussed with the council in June. Several years ago, the SVDP Finance and Pastoral Councils determined that in order for SVDP to be a true Stewardship parish, we would take 1% of the Sunday collection (roughly \$13,000 annually) and make a contribution to an organization(s) outside the parish needing our assistance. (Please see June, 2006 minutes for more details).

At this meeting there was clarification that different charities would receive this money each year.

**Action Item: For the next meeting each PC member is to bring two charities that they would like to be considered for this fund.**

**Ministry and Organization Guidelines Review:**

Sonia brought a copy of the document with all of the inputs (PC and Stewardship) incorporated. Highlights of the discussion were as follows:

- Formatting changes or wording changes
- Addition of the Ministry Lead to be in good standing with the church
- Additional questions of whether Ethics & Integrity is required
- Pastor discretion for approval for the “Active” section
- Clarification under “dissolution” section
- Addition of existing fund information for the “dissolution” section
- Associated form changes from above
- Addition of whether a checking account is required was added to ensure that the Pastor’s name is on all accounts using the SVdP Federal Employer ID number.
- Addition of a signature and date by Pastor upon approval
- Per the May PC meeting, the Council will review “Active” forms and provide the Stewardship a copy in a timely manner.

The Council decided that a final draft will be put together for a LAST review and this final copy will be sent to Father Danny for approval. Noting that revisions may be made at any time and also revising and updating as necessary the Ministries and Organization chart in the January/February time frame so that the ministries directory can reflect the organization chart.

**Action Item: Sonia will incorporate the items discussed and send out a Final draft as soon as possible for Council review. The Council is to review and send the final copy to Father Danny for approval.**

**The meeting concluded with a prayer led by Deacon David**

**The next Pastoral Council meeting will be held Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.**

**Also, please note Pat's new e-mail address and update accordingly:  
pdowning@hoovers.com**

Respectively submitted by  
Sonia Schuetze