

**Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, February 20, 2007**

**Attendees:** Mark Fair, Paula McLaughlin, Deacon Allen Desorcie, Fr. Danny Garcia, Henry Gaona and Teresa Clark.

Guests: Chris Downey, Pauline Lewis, Josie Kleypas, Michelle Guadagnoli, Theresa Chen and Joy Latten.

Meeting began at 7:30 pm in P1.

**Opening:**

Paula started the meeting with opening prayer, then read Sunday's gospel and the group shared their thoughts on the Word.

**Ministry Updates:** We had visitors representing various ministries, to review the current status of the ministry they lead. Paula welcomed them and gave them an open door to Pastoral Council.

Pauline Lewis: Lead minister for **Interfaith Care Alliance (now 'Care Community')**, which works with both churches and industry to care and minister to the sick. Their policy changed last year, from treating only HIV/AIDS to all illnesses. Approximately 80 congregations (at least 12 are Catholic) in Austin currently participate and provide training for this program. Pauline describes SVDP's current care partner as a very spiritual man who has glaucoma, is a Katrina survivor, and now has liver cancer. Claudette Cannon, Verna Ledoux, Kathy Vogel, and Marie Marcelin are the current team members, who see our care partner both individually and as a group, to help with meals, doctor's appointments, read to him, etc. Pauline feels we could support another care partner at this point, and would like to add another to SVDP's team. It was suggested that we ask CRHP or other groups to consider participating in this group.

Josie Kleypas: Lead minister for the **Bereavement Ministry** which provides the funeral meal for bereaved families, and has evolved because of a greater need and a growing number of funerals at SVDP. The ministry is currently split into 3 groups, each with a leader (15-16 people with a leader). Josie handles the scheduling and offers the meal menu (their choice) to the family. Josie conveyed how thankful and relieved the families are in receiving the meals, and she tries to utilize and welcome whatever gift of time each team member has to give, whether they work, etc. – does not let this be a deterrent to parishioners joining the ministry. The parish provides the meat, the team members provide everything else as their time and resources allow (team evaluates after each meal). Josie would like to have a flyer for our clergy to give the family during funeral planning, with info about the meal provided.

Joy Latten: Lead minister for the **Gabriel Project**, our diocesan program assisting women in crisis pregnancies ('pregnant women in crises' – in terms of their decision to not have an abortion). Women are assigned/routed to a parish according to their address, and SVDP served about 45-50 women last year – if mom moves, angels travel to where she lives, regardless of new address. The ministry supplies a lot of material needs, but also spiritual – it is left up to the mother whether she wants a friendship to develop. Joy describes as very challenging ministry, difficulty in recruiting, requires diocesan training, ethics and integrity. Hard to retain volunteers in all parishes... end up with 4-5 people handling 45-50 clients. Joy identified one of the ministry's biggest needs is more people (recruiting and keeping committed angels); active members get stressed and try to support each other through sharing sessions. The parish of SVDP has been great with meeting material needs (Lenten project, Respect Life month), and sometimes they have accessed Society of SVDP resources even when outside of ZIP code. Biggest need is clients having other needs beyond baby needs... cribs are in largest demand. Yahoo group provides networking between parishes for needs. Joy's closing remark was the need to brainstorm ideas on how to collect cribs, and Deacon Allen suggested she contact Annunciation Maternity Home in Georgetown.

Theresa Chen: Lead minister for the **Respect Life Ministry**. After 3 years of an inactive ministry, Beth Leary and Theresa decided to co-chair, and began in September 2006. The ministry goal is to make sure our community has a good awareness of the church's teachings and activities of respect for life, combining both spiritual and informative, studying church documents, and focusing on the sacred. The ministry currently

has five loyal members meeting once a month; Bill Cronin, Iru Yeddanapalli, Stephen Kim, Theresa and Beth. Taking baby steps, they feel the most important part for this year is to be prayerful and awaken as many groups as possible about the prayer part of the ministry (prayer cards, etc.). Their biggest recent highlight was during rally day on Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, and SVDP had quite a few parishioners attend the rally. They hope by next year to involve the youth more, at least in the rally and rosary. Other parish activities hosted by this ministry have been a Holy Hour for Respect Life and a Rosary of Mercy for those executed, their families and all touched. Jenna Falgout has been their greatest youth supporter. Every Sunday they are praying before Mass, not just Respect Life Sunday, and want to do more for Roe vs. Wade next year.

Michelle Gaudagnoli: Lead minister for the **Hunger Ministry**, describes the ministry as mainly food that is donated in baskets each week. Currently 23 members meeting once a year to talk about plans, sign ups, schedules. Feels it is a behind the scenes ministry and a fundraiser for local food pantries, but also benefits farmers around the world. Currently they are considering a food drive right before summer (when pantries get the lowest). Michelle conveyed that the Lenten food drive helps greatly.

**Update on Packet for ministry leads (Paula):** There is an Appreciation dinner (preceded by a short informational meeting) planned for ministry leads, tentatively scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to assemble a packet of information with the new Ministry & Organizational Guidelines, facilities rental info, ministry directory, short form for ministry leader change, etc. The plan is to give the packet to ministry leads after masses so they may look it over prior to the appreciation dinner. (Because the packet has an overwhelming amount of information – we must address the need to keep the ‘meeting’ portion very concise and focus on the overview of the document intentions, not try to address everyone’s questions at this time.)  
**Action Item: The council plans to make follow-up phone calls to ministry leads regarding packets before meeting/dinner.**

**Update Pastoral Council on upcoming Meeting with Councils on Vision Document (Mark):**  
We have contacts with four ministries for visitation to their meetings to explain the Vision document, and a very enthusiastic response so far. Materials are ready, just requires attending meetings.

**Discussion of staggered Pastoral Council Terms and change in Chairperson & Scribe roles (Paula):**  
There was a short discussion of utilizing alternate members and the cohesiveness of present council. The deacon has been considered the ongoing member who guides “documents in process”, etc. The idea of having one member with a six month extension in their third year was discussed (to be the guide for ongoing work, providing history of the people and/or events of the parish), and in particular the possibility of having the appointed member serve the extended term. There was the question of the need to change bylaws to include the appointed person for an extra six months. It was reiterated that the discernment process is moving to October/November so that two councils can overlap meetings for 2-3 months, for “training” issues. Regarding youth members, it was suggested that a high school junior or senior be appointed for a one-year term.

**Action Item: Deacon Allen will research the need for amending the council bylaws to allow for a six-month term extension for appointed members.**

It was decided that Mark Fair will now assume the role of Pastoral Council chairperson from Paula McLaughlin, Teresa Clark will assume duties of Scribe from Sonia Schuetze.

**The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be March 27, 2007 at 7:30pm.**

**Closing Prayer** was led by Henry Gaona.

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Clark.