

## **OLV Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes - April 10, 2005**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

**Members Present:** Fr. Steve O'Connor, President & Liturgy Advocate  
Rod Echevarria, Chairperson  
Anna Garner, Cultural/Special Events Advocate  
Cathy Wilkey, Charity Advocate  
Thomas Pileggi, Education Advocate  
Dolores Osborne-Hensley, Fellowship Advocate/Vice Chairperson  
Rose Woodward, Vocations and Life Issues Advocate  
Mary Ellen Mayer, Secretary

**Members Absent:** Claudia Finn, Spiritual Formation Advocate was excused.

**Others Present:** Joy Corley, Julie Koday, John Koday, Mary Morella,  
Theresa Pileggi

Reading of Minutes: Minutes of the Special Meeting on March 21, 2005 were distributed in advance. They were approved as prepared.

### **Old Business:**

**Pastor Report:** Fr. O'Connor had nothing concrete to report on the In Vision program. He is still actively pursuing information and arrangement of a meeting with Msgr. Flaherty. He is exploring the possibility of implementing the parts of the In Vision survey that may answer open questions regarding the building of our new Church. Meeting with Msgr. Flaherty would likely aid the council by borrowing from the experience of Holy Spirit and St. Ann's.

**Fellowship Advocate Report:** OLV 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Dolores Osborne-Hensley presented several locations for the year-end celebration. Eglin AFB Officer's Club seats 300-500; Bus companies were contacted for estimates of transporting parishioners. Advance ticket sales would provide names for a manifest, which when given to the base in advance of the date, would satisfy base security concerns. Other locations are the Crestview Holiday Inn and the Armory, also located in Crestview. The Armory will be contacted for availability of December 10 and/or December 17, 2005.

Dolores Osborne-Hensley asked if a training session was being planned for the new Advocates. None is planned at this time.

**New Business:** Joy Corley, who has been managing the Sunday coffee and donut program, requested it be suspended for the summer. She announced her decision to resign as of April 24, 2005. Discussion on continuing the program was held. There was a consensus to continue. An ad will be put into the bulletin to attempt to replace the position Joy has held for so long. The council thanked her for her time and effort. In order to increase the number attending it was suggested that fruit, bagels, etc be offered in addition to the donuts. Increased publicity and, perhaps, the challenge to introduce oneself to one other parishioner may increase attendance and, more importantly, deepen our fellowship.

Additional ideas for stronger participation in parish activities included discussion on the possibility of a monthly calendar insert, to be included in the bulletin, a monthly full breakfast, and a monthly challenge for each parishioner to introduce him/herself to another that they do not know.

There will be a Parish Conclave on Sunday, April 17, 2005 following the 11:00 am Mass. This is Generation of Faith meeting open to the entire parish. The intent of each of those attending is to explore or confirm their Mission in faith. Age and vocation appropriate units will divide groups. Each will have a moderator.

Fr. O'Connor has hired a part-time Religious Education Director. Jane Brim will begin this Ministry this coming Friday. She is a former parishioner of St. Sylvester's and is on the Board of the Institute for Ministry Formation (IMF).

Rod Echevarria spoke with Claudia Finn regarding her availability for attending meetings. Meeting time will be moved to the early evening. It was suggested that each member of the Council find someone willing to attend a meeting, if they are unable to attend. The responsibility of that person would be reporting to the Council and reporting back to the Advocate. They would not be eligible to vote.

Pledges, for CSA, that have not been picked-up will be mailed to parishioners. Fr. O'Connor will write a letter for the office staff to enclose with the pledges.

Discussion on OLV 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations included a dinner for those parishioners who have been members for 50 years, another for those at 25 years (to be called Silver Sunday), a dinner invitation to those we know that are non-practicing Catholics, ending the year with the Golden Anniversary celebration in December. The first Mass at OLV was December 25, 1955.

Discussion of the date for the annual picnic included mid-October. If it were held in September, perhaps the 16<sup>th</sup>, moving the time to late afternoon to avoid mid-day heat.

Fr. O'Connor was asked why he chose not to announce the intention for the Mass of the day. He feels strongly that the announcement of a name is generally misunderstood. Prayers offered at Mass do not belong to one person. As a Priest, he celebrates the Mass. It is not owned by him to tell others who to pray for. While he recognizes that an announcement of a name is a Priest's personal choice, he believes there is wide general misunderstanding of what that means. Donations for a Mass do not mean that a Mass is for sale. He has seen both this attitude and those who have approached him to say they wanted to offer their prayers for someone or something other than a single person. The names are listed in the

bulletin and are also on the altar, whether announced or not. However, each of us attending Mass may offer our prayers to whomever we wish.

Fr. O'Connor was asked why OLV did not commemorate anything specifically for Pope John Paul II. Not only was he not in town the day that Pope John Paul died, he was unable to find any picture of him when he did return. Nor could he find a black drape to use had he had found a picture. With Bishop Ricard already planning an event at the Cathedral, he believed many would go to Pensacola and that something held at OLV would not be well attended. Following the election of our new Pope, he plans to display a photo of him and Bishop Ricard in the foyer of our church.

The next Council meeting is planned for May 22, 2005.

Rod Echevarria offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.