

Župnijski Svet – Brezmadežna Čudodelne Svetinje (Toronto)

Parish Council – Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Toronto)

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting #3 – May 5, 2010

Attendees:

Father Valentin Batič
 Father Antonio Burja
 Bernarda Čemas
 Mojca Dimperio
 Robert Ferkul
 Marjeta Franc
 Sonya Horvat
 Marta Jamnik-Sousa
 Sister Mirta
 Rozika Nesich
 Andrej Pahulje
 Cody Petersen
 Paula Petersen
 Millie Ulcar
 Josephine Žilavec
 Milan Vinčec

Representing:

Priests
 Priests
 Cerkevni Zbor
 Women's Choir (Naša Pesem)
 Planika / Mladi Glas
 Slovenian Apostolic Circle
 Catechists
 Slovenian School
 Sisters of Mary
 Catholic Women's League (KŽL)
 Church Organist
 Scouts
 Scouts
 Otroški Kotiček
 Nageljčki / Nagelj
 Slovenian School

<u>No.</u>	<u>Discussion:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
1.	<u>Approval of Previous Minutes</u> Correction to previous minutes where the opening prayer was listed as "Sveta Marija". Should read "Zdrava Marija".	Info.
2.	<u>Opening Prayer</u> Mojca Dimperio began the meeting with prayers and a song to honour our mother Mary in this month of May.	Info.
3.	<u>"Making a Pastoral Council Work"</u> Mojca Dimperio reviewed the first chapter of this book where the historical perspective of Parish Councils was examined. Her summary can be found as Attachment #1 to these minutes.	Info.
4.	<u>Parish Council Constitution</u> Paula Petersen and Millie Ulcar worked together summarizing a sample constitution and drafting a first draft constitution for our parish council. Copies were emailed to everyone for review. The draft constitution was read to all for discussion. The following comments were made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mission Statement – a draft mission statement was provided which we can adopt and revise as the council develops. - Guiding Principles – Paula Petersen suggested adding to the constitution some guiding principles outlining how members are to conduct themselves at the meetings (eg. Ability to speak freely and openly) - It is understood that all members herein assigned are members for at least the next two years with elections to be held possibly in March, 2012. - Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to be held today. 	Info.

5. **Vote:**
The position of Chairperson will be held by two “Co-Chairs” who will share the responsibilities.
 - Vote was passed unanimously, with no abstentions. Info.
6. **Vote:**
To elect Paula Petersen and Milan Vincec to be Co-Chairs of the Parish Council.
 - Vote was passed unanimously, with no abstentions. Info.
7. **Vote:**
To elect Marjeta Franc to be Vice-Chairperson of the Parish Council.
 - Vote was passed unanimously, with no abstentions. Info.
8. Passionist Missionary Visit
 Father Batic informed us that if we were interested in requesting the missionary whom he had mentioned in the last meeting to come to our parish we should contact him as soon as possible to secure a date for him to come. A brochure and pamphlet of the program the missionary would do was circulated for all review. It was agreed that a meeting will be arranged and held between Fr. Batic and either Paula Petersen or Milan Vincec and the missionary (or his office). It was also agreed that the best time for this program would be in late March or early April of 2011. Fr. Batic /
 P. Petersen /
 M. Vincec
9. Slovenian Eucharistic Congress
 The idea of broadcasting the event in the church hall is a good one, however it cannot be live as the Sunday mass will be at 11:00 in Slovenia which is 5:00 a.m. local time. Logistics are a problem with preparing anything for this event at this late time however, it was agreed that the mass be recorded and a presentation highlighting certain aspects of the congress can be done some time during the week following the event (week of June 14). Fr. Burja will coordinate this but will need assistance from council members. Please let him know if you can help. He will especially require technical assistance in editing the presentation. Information about the congress will also be posted in the Oznanila. The presentation will be done in Slovenian and English. Fr. Burja /
 Volunteers

10. Saturday Evening Masses During Summer Season Info.
 Father Burja wanted to discuss why Saturday evening mass needs to be cancelled during the summer months. It was suggested that these masses be reinstated, if only for May (month of Mary). Issue with masses is the logistics of having only three priests performing mass at two churches, the farm and other farms as required. Timing is also an issue of great importance as getting to the different locations on time is difficult, especially when leaving the downtown area.
11. Confirmation Fr. Batic
 Fr. Batic to confirm any guests for next year's confirmation ceremony when he goes to Slovenia in June.
12. Upcoming Dates: Info.
 June 6 – Corpus Christi procession at the Slovenian Summercamp.
 September 12 – procession and mass in Midland, Ontario (next meeting to discuss plans for the day, eg. Readers, etc.)
13. Parish Yearbook Info.
 We are still to discuss whether or not we would like to hire a photographer who is inquiring about our interest in co-ordinating parish members for their photograph to insert into a parish "yearbook" as part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations. Help would be required in the need for co-ordinators to call parishioners for their interest and booking appointments for their photograph. This will need to be discussed at the next meeting and started as soon as possible.
14. Next Meeting All
 Next meeting to be held on Thursday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m. Note that all meetings unless specifically changed for a certain meeting, to be held on Thursdays. Agenda for this next meeting to be determined prior to the meeting and distributed. If anyone has some topic to be discussed please contact Paula Petersen, Milan Vincec or Fr. Burja at least one week in advance.

Prepared by: Sonya Horvat

ATTACHMENT #1

Making a Pastoral Council Work A Historical Perspective

The following is a brief summary of the introduction of the above noted book as prepared by Mojca Dimperio.

Vatican II was a council proclaimed by Pope John XXIII from 1962 – 1965. He wished this council would be set up to increase the energy of Catholics and to serve the needs of Christian people.

To achieve this purpose, bishops and priests must grow in holiness, the laity must be given effective instruction in Christian faith and morals; adequate provision must be made for the education of children; Christian social activity must increase; and all Christians must bare missionary hearts. The church must be brought up to date and must adapt itself to meet the challenged conditions of modern times.

There was a Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity from Vatican II which confirmed that lay people be responsible, through their baptism, to be active in the work of Christ.

This document challenged them to play an active role in the life of the church. **The sharing of responsibility for the mission of the church has become a priority.**

Since the formation of Vatican II, Bishops and priests looked for ways to enable lay people a better understanding, acceptance and carrying out of responsibilities in the church. The parish council came out of this as a way to engage parishioners more fully in their work. Early on members were men known to the pastor, trusted and respected. Some were asked their advice on subjects like finance, construction and administration. Meetings were informal and irregular. Council members kept a low profile. They believed they were responsible for helping priests carry on the ministry of the parish and had not much responsibility from that point on.

Later councils emerged and became more involved and the members' role expanded. Eventually, with the help of the pastor, councils began to take on a leadership role. These were some activities: monthly meetings; creating structured positions; receiving regular reports from parish organizations; budget issues including the annual review; sharing reports and updates with parishioners through open meetings.

A new parish pastoral council has emerged in some parishes and dioceses. They are there to fulfill the very simple mission to which we are all called: **proclaiming the Good News, supporting a community of believers and serving the community at large.**

There is a difference between a parish council and a finance committee.

Canon law states that each parish must have a finance committee to help the pastor handle the funds coming in and to fulfill the mission in the Church and the world. "It is the pastor's responsibility to establish a parish finance committee, to appoint its members and to draw from their experience in making financial decisions. Together, they strive to respond financially to the needs of the parish family by determining what is financially feasible, prudent and sound. The committee also works closely with other consultative, advisory and decision-making bodies of the parish, such as the parish pastoral council and building committee." (pg. 11)

It was recommended that parishes adopt guidelines made in 1984 by the Laity Commission of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. The purpose of these guidelines was to help all members of parish pastoral councils to better understand their roles. There are several topics covered: the nature of parish councils; composition; selection of members; length of mandate; specific roles within a parish pastoral council; procedures; responsibilities of parish pastoral councils; the authority of parish pastoral councils; and relationship of parish pastoral councils with other levels of the church.

It was recommended that all members have a copy of this six-page document.

A suggestion made was to break up into groups of two or three and "develop a list of words or phrases that best captures the essence of the topic" (pg 13). Then make a master list from all this and post it at all meetings to remind us of who and what the council is.