

## PARISH COUNCIL DISCUSSION

of

FIRST ANNUAL OPEN FORUM  
ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH  
SUNDAY, APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2010 – 2 pm

### QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

Before Mass, when people are reflecting and preparing themselves, there is a lot of noise and talking. Could people be encouraged to meet up with their friends after Mass? Is there a possibility of having soft recorded music prior to the start of Mass? **A notice has been put into the bulletin asking people to be considerate of those preparing for Mass.**

Can we take the opportunity to pursue a youth minister to enhance our youth program? **We are looking into the possibility of a hiring a part time youth minister. There are many aspects to consider in this endeavor but it is being discussed.**

Eight families that I know of have left our parish. Why has this happened, Can we investigate to find out why? **This is being addressed by our Parish Evangelization Team who underwent training with Fr. Paul Mast and shared their faith with the congregation at Christmas and Easter.**

Is it possible for the priests to speak about the devotions in our parish i.e., Daily Mass, Exposition, St. Vincent de Paul (asking people to use their envelopes), Holy Name Society etc? **Yes, each group in the parish has announcements of their activities and special events made at Mass. Homilies, however, during Mass, are the responsibility of the presider or the deacon at each Mass and are meant to interpret the Scripture readings for today. It would be up to the preacher to refer to a particular popular devotion in light of the readings.**

Can we think about not having the Communion song begin until the priest begins to distribute Communion? **The liturgical norm is for the Communion Hymn to begin when the presider consumes the Body and Blood of the Lord. The hymn, however, may begin with musical instrumentation at that time leading to the congregation's participation in song a little later. Many**

**hymns begin this way so that the congregation hears the melody before actually singing.**

I would like to have an open Parish Council Meeting at St. Bernadette's once a year. **Parish Council Members agreed to do this.**

In reference to our mortgage debt, I have not seen any outside advertising to rent the hall. Would this help to meet the mortgage? **Information about the hall rental will be published in the bulletin. At this time it has been decided not to do any outside advertising because of problems in the past with renting the Parish Hall to outside groups.**

Could the Parish Council look at the pews at St. John's regarding the cracks? **We have a volunteer who is repairing the pews. This is an ongoing project. We are also considering buying cushions for the pews by asking parishioners to donate toward them.**

I would like to suggest that Parish Council consider investigating having the national organization on evangelization come to talk to us about how to evangelize better. Take a serious look at this and pray about it. **Father Paul Mast trained an Evangelization Team for St. John's as part of our 100<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of the parish. Ten parishioners completed the training last Fall and have been commissioned as Parish Evangelists. They initially shared their faith with the congregation at Christmas and Easter as well as during Advent and Lent. They have also telephoned every inactive family who are registered but have made no contribution to the parish during the last year. They continue to meet with the Pastor to discern ways to encourage ongoing evangelization within the community.**

Many of our youth over the years have left our church. We need to look at this. Those of us here are involved in the church. The Forum is a great idea but we need to see what we can do for our youth. **Our DRE and CRE are discussing this issue and the possibility of hiring a part-time Youth Minister for St. John's and for St. Bernadette's but not one minister for both groups.**

It would be good to have something like this for new members. Perhaps a pitch from the altar to get them to come would work. **The Evangelization Team is**

**talking about renewing Hospitality Weekend which focuses directly on new members, an invitation at the Masses to come to the Hall after Mass for coffee and donuts to meet and greet newcomers. It is hoped that various groups within the parish will take a turn hosting the weekend.**

When I was young we had the good old CYO. We had a priest working with us. Youth ministry is very important and we have nothing. **It is not true that we have nothing. We have a Teen Challenge Program at both churches and the youth involved visit the nursing homes, collect food in the community for the poor, engage in a Food Fast in solidarity with the hungry, and make hoagies for Super Bowl Sunday. It's certainly true that both groups should have more members and more activities.**

More frequent Open Forums would be good with the hope to get new people. **This will be on the Parish Council agenda.**

Telephone system – when I call the mail boxes are full. Can we do something about this? **At times people are on vacation or at meetings etc., and their mail boxes get full. This is usually resolved within a day or so.**

For the next Open Forum could we have a covered dish? **This has been referred for further discussion of future Parish Council Open Forums.**

Sound system has been worked on but we are still getting feed back. **New speakers have been added at St. John's Church for those sitting in the rear of the church. Some mikes have been replaced in an effort to resolve the feedback issue.**

In reference to people leaving our church, some people don't like to talk outloud but would write about it instead. What about a comment box in the back of the church for those people? **The Christian Formation Committee is sponsoring a box at the entrance of each church for questions regarding the faith. It would certainly be possible to submit written comments or questions about the parish in those boxes.**