

Parish Pastoral Council

Vandy Nachazel, Chairman

The Pastoral Parish Council as a group would like to offer our condolences to the Frank Marcello family. Frank served as Chairman for two full terms and one part term and was invaluable in guiding the PPC in its many projects. His guidance and service will be sorely missed.

This year's parish council has already met twice plus attended a retreat led by Father John which was held at Notre Dame on September 26 and 27. In addition, the PPC was heavily involved in the planning and production of the Festival of Nations.

The Festival of Nations produced many positive results beyond providing funds toward the GiFT Campaign. Perhaps most importantly it brought together many parishioners working for a common goal. We would hope that this project could be expanded in future years. I would like to thank all those who participated in making this a successful event.

Part of the time during our retreat was spent exploring the purposes of your PPC and how to improve what we accomplish. Areas identified for future attention included 1) the expansion of successful programs such as Bible study and the Festival of Nations, 2) the creation of new programs to involve more parishioners, and 3) a program to welcome new parishioners and get them involved in one or more groups in our parish.

Again, I want to stress that this is your Pastoral Parish Council. We are interested in your input and involvement on our committees as well as welcome you to our meetings. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the new office building.

PPC Education Commission

Lisa Loewenkamp, Chairman

Thanks to everyone in our parish who participated in the Renew: Why Catholic program last year. There were a total of 81 participants, with most participating in both the Advent and Lenten sessions. Many thanks to those who agreed to be facilitators or hosted Renew meetings in their homes; Jean HagenBurger, Julie Fannon, Martha Fannon, Susan Collins, Beth Morrissey, Lou Marrone, Andrea Robinson, Ray and Susan Jones, Judy and Jerry Collins, Ruth Schell, Betty Bright, Jeanne Garibaldi, Scott Fisher, and Denise Michaud. Our Renew program was a success because of these wonderful volunteers.

For those of you unfamiliar with the program, Renew: Why Catholic is a four-year journey through the Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church. A facilitator leads a small group (anywhere between 3 and 12 members) in discussion for 12 weeks total, 6 weeks during the fall and 6 weeks during Lent. The discussions are centered on a book, one for each year. We just finished Book 1, entitled *The Profession of Faith: What we Believe*. This book centered on the Apostles Creed and explored the basic tenets of our faith. This year we are studying book 2, *The Celebration of the Christian Mystery: Sacraments*. We invite all of you to join a group, make some new friends in the parish, and learn more about your faith. Look for information in the February bulletins on sign-up dates for the Lenten sessions. The only cost involved is the purchase of Book 2, which is only \$10! Also, if you are interested in facilitating or hosting a group, you will have an opportunity to volunteer. You may call me, Lisa Loewenkamp, at 636-1308 if you are interested.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Judy Collins, Coordinator

After a meaningful welcoming rite, we are in an extended period of formation of mind and heart in which catechesis is gradually given, accommodated to the liturgical year, and rooted in celebrations of the word.

Our candidates (and sponsors) are Dwayne Craig (Lou Marone), Billy Briggs (Jerry Collins), and Betty Pinter (Sharon Massey). Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on their faith journeys.

Members of the RCIA team include the following: Father John Appiah, Father William Casey, Jerry Collins, Rick Longworth, Lou Marone, Sheila Alexander, Kathy Ridley, and Judy Collins, Leader.

RCIA meets every Tuesday evening from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Ganz House.

Catechist Day by Dominican Sisters

Sister Mary Michael, Sister Mary Charles, and Sister Mary Catherine (Dominican sisters from Nashville) were the presenters for the Five Rivers Deanery Catechist Day held here at Notre Dame on October 18. Over 35 people from the deanery attended their first session. The second session will be held at St. Patrick Church in Morristown on March 7, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. There is no cost for the workshop; however, pre-registration is required. Forms are on the table in the parish hall, or you may register on line at the www.dioceseofknoxville.org website.

Thank you to all who provided hospitality while the sisters were here. The food supplied for our event by our Parish and Family Life Committee was a wonderful addition, too.