

Holy Spirit Church

Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2007

1.0 Attendees

Father Simmons, Veronica Hernandez, Larry Shepard, Denise Brown, Anne O'Connor, Jack Urbanski, Mike Perrone, Lurine Kunschman

2.0 Topics Discussed

- Deacon Paul Mann's presentation: The Pastoral Council as a Visioning and Planning Leadership Body
- Future of Harford County with the BRAC
- Conclusion of Deacon Paul Mann's presentation
- Father Simmons' announcements
- Homework
- Next meeting

3.0 Meeting Minutes

Topic	Main Discussion
Deacon Paul Mann's Presentation	<p>Deacon Paul Mann commended Father Simmons for recruiting a young Parish Council. He started out by providing a history of the Parish Council and how the concept of Parish Council's came about. He confirmed that in the early 90s Parish Council's were not as effective. We moved to a concept which allowed Parish Councils to advise the Parish on what were larger, higher-level issues. The Parish Council is a visionary body for the future of Parishes.</p> <p>In the old days, the Catholic religion was a pyramid: The Pope was at the top of the pyramid, followed by the Cardinals, then the Archbishops, then the Bishops, the Priests, the Brothers/Nuns and Sisters, and finally the Laity. Back then, those people that were Jewish, Protestant, Islamic, etc. were left outside the pyramid. Then with the Vatican 2, the Church introduced a new way of seeing things. The Pope was placed in the middle of a circle. The outer layers of the circle were composed of the staff, the Parish Council, the Committee chairpersons, the Committee folks and the mass attendees. Everyone's job is outward. The concept is to go out and reach out to the people that are not involved in the church at all.</p> <p>Concepts to think about were outlined in the presentation.</p> <p>Slide 2: Move from reacting to the present and building for the future Focus on inter-relationships Reflect on patterns</p> <p>Deacon Mann confirmed that many people in a Parish think the priest does all the work. But in reality, the community must do the work and keep everyone involved and active in the Parish.</p> <p>Deacon Mann stated that all committees' focus interrelates in one way or another. The five core concepts of the Parish Council are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mission – Carry out the mission• Consensus – Get everyone on the same page• Plan – Make sure plan moves forward• Oversight – Provide high-level oversight• Spiritual Formation – Set the tone and mood <p>For these concepts to be able to be carried out, communication is very crucial. Furthermore, Parish council members and committee members must support each other.</p> <p>Deacon Mann stated that the plan is in the people. He stated that Parish Council</p>

Holy Spirit Church

Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2007

	<p>members must lead by example and stay focused on the mission. Council members should try to lead with a consensus and focus on the future of the Parish.</p> <p>Deacon Paul Mann also provided insight on the basics of planning.</p> <p>Note: Deacon Mann will send the presentation to Veronica so she can make it available to Parish Council members.</p>
Future of Harford County and BRAC re-alignment	<p>Deacon Paul Mann recommended for the Parish Council to keep an eye on the activities occurring with the BRAC and the re-alignment of military bases. He strongly believes the Parishes are going to boom due to the number of people expected to move into Harford County. Many Parishes will be affected, including: Holy Spirit, St. Patrick's in Havre De Grace, Joan of Arc, Prince of Peace and St. Francis d'Assails. The Parish Council needs to be prepared for what's coming ahead.</p> <p>This raised a question from Anne O'Connor. Since she has been attending the Harford Assembly meetings, she wanted to know if they should take the BRAC re-alignment into consideration when participating in the regional planning. Deacon Paul Mann did confirm that it should be taken into account. He also suggested we try to promote activities that will be of more interest to younger members.</p>
Conclusion of Deacon Paul Mann's presentation	<p>Deacon Paul Mann suggested the Council members commit to planning, identify Pastoral needs, create opportunities for parishioners to contribute and respond to the Parish's needs.</p> <p>Deacon Paul Mann suggested we try to answer the questions on the last slide of his presentation together as a Parish Council.</p> <p>The last slide states:</p> <p>Where do we go from here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With our council? • With the parishioners? • What are the questions we have?
Father's Announcements	<p>Why Catholic begins on Sunday, September 30th. He hopes to have a good turn out. The Why Catholic sessions will take place on Sundays, Monday night, Wednesday and Thursday.</p> <p>Father also made an announcement about the Endowment Funds and including the Church in our wills. On November 3rd, the Parish will be a gathering after the Saturday mass to celebrate the Endowment contributions.</p>
Homework	<p>Review the By Laws and highlight sections where changes are being recommended.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on October 12, 2007 at the Parish Center at 6:30 pm. Lurine will order pizza.</p>

4.0 Action Items

1. Read the By Laws and highlight where you recommend changes be made.