

PPC Meeting Notes, January 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eileen Arthur, Lorraine Rund, Jacob George, David Violi, Jennifer Jacobi, Allie Jeffs, Father Patrick, Father Tom, Jennifer Kerr, Alex Eros, Jackie Sorensen, Kristin Malavenda, Lesley Geldart, Melanie Papariella, Matt Arvin, Stephen Sehr, Pablo Davila, Charlene Meyer, Joan Gentry, Bernie Davila, Lori Muhlenkamp, Sean Sullivan and Pam Applegate.

ABSENT: Keith Woeste

DECEMBER MINUTE CORRECTIONS: Kristin Malavenda was present...she had arrived late. Recycle bins had been placed in the kitchen. Eileen Strater's name was misspelled.

Father Patrick said the opening prayer.

We went around the group for introductions. Everyone stated how long he/she had been part of the parish council and STA.

Father Patrick gave the PPC an overview of the relationship between the Dominicans and the Diocese as it relates to STA. We are different in this respect than our sister parishes in the Diocese.

Father Patrick said STA parish is a good parish, and it could be a great parish. He said good is the enemy of great. He said we sometimes have to be challenged and encouraged to think about how our parish should be a part of our day-to-day life.

We will be called to change by the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas ...define our mission, gauge our success and implement more outreach.

He talked about Texas A&M. Basic statistics: 150 parishioners attend daily mass, 60-100 in bible study, 42 are in formation to be religious (total of both men and women), about 1500 are involved in annual retreats (the summer is slower with approximately 425 individuals participating). Father Patrick talked about the way retreats generate evangelization, which sparks the community.

Father Patrick talked about STA Campus Renew, which started 15 months ago with one group. The Campus Renew has grown to 10 groups. He talked about Renew International and how STA should be a hub of faith for everyone.

We talked about what evangelization is –taking our beliefs into the world.

As a PPC, we need to look at long-term issues as well as some smaller or shorter-term items.

We talked about Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17). On that day alone, STA will have 7000 people come through its doors. Wouldn't it be great to do something to knock the socks off the people coming thru those doors?

Father Patrick talked about ways to reach people. As a politician, he knocked on doors – thousands of doors – and asked questions. What would we do if we knocked on doors? Are you catholic? Do you go to church? A parish in Vermont was discussed as an example of ecumenical evangelization with information distributed about all churches. Then suddenly Sunday school / religious education attendance went up, and those parents started coming to church.

We talked about teenagers. How are we evangelizing to them through the Life Teen program? Father Patrick talked about someone who worked alongside Dorothy Day. His name was Peter Maurin and he said, "We should create places where it is easy to be good."

Jennifer Kerr talked about the three officers for PPC, Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Pam Applegate volunteered as Secretary, Jacob George volunteered as Vice-Chair, and Alex Eros volunteered as Chair.

A thought/concern was brought up regarding execution of new ideas. We need plan before we just initiate. And, there needs to be some follow through.

It was stated that last year the PPC talked about the momentum that was lost by not meeting throughout the year. Our next meeting will be February 7.

PPC members who are unable to attend a meeting should send someone in their place.

New PPC members had their pictures taken and a bio was requested for the STA website.

Father Patrick talked about a writing from Pope Paul VI called *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, and said the material was timeless. The group agreed that it would be a good idea for all PPC members to read this paper prior to our next meeting. The secretary is to send the website link to all PPC members and PCS leaders.

Father Tom ended with a closing prayer.