

Minutes of Bellarmine Advisory Committee

March 15, 2006

Present:

Richard Bollman, Karen Brandstetter, Karen Hurley, Andrew Thompson, Janet Neidhard, Kinny McQuaid, Margaret O'Gorman, Jessica Stieritz, Sally Fellerhoff, Mike Marrero, Connie Widmer.

Absent: Jim Brown.

Celebration

The meeting began with a celebration of Karen B.'s birthday

Prayer:

Andrew began the meeting with prayers taken from the 1665 Church of England Book of Common Prayer.

Sharing

Our reflection was based on "Do You Speak Ignation"; page 4 "Finding God in All Things"

Elementary School Tutoring Program

Kinny gave an update on the Elementary School Tutoring Program. Pat Schloemer is no longer involved in the tutoring program at Oyler, so he is exploring adopting a local school with Stephanie. He noted the enormous impact that Cincinnati Bell has had on Taft High School's results, by its sponsorship. Margaret mentioned the Community Building Institute as a valuable resource, we could tap into the work that Liz Blume is doing to build community relationships. This would save having to start from scratch. Kinny will reconnect with Stephanie.

How Are We Welcoming New Parishioners and Getting Them Engaged in the Life of the Parish?

Karen B. summarized new registrations over the past 14 months:

- 111 households registered.

- Of these

- 73 made some financial contribution.

- 15 are involved in some area of ministry.

- 50 have left the parish, because of moves etc.

Karen has not compiled registration data from previous years.

Karen also mentioned that there were 70 envelope boxes unclaimed in spite of repeated requests in the Bulletin and in announcements to pick them up. Although she recognized six envelopes that could be claimed she did not recognize the others. Does this mean they have left the parish? There was a widespread reluctance amongst us all to follow up with the people who had not collected their envelopes because it felt too much like pledge solicitation.

After discussion we agreed to make follow-up phone calls to new parishioners who have registered in the past six to 14 months. This would be to check on how we are doing welcoming newcomers. Are they finding ways of getting involved? What have been their experiences? Are they getting what they were looking for at Bellarmine? Had they received Mentor Calls? A script will be prepared to guide these phone calls.

Bellarmino's policy on political issue announcements from the pulpit

Mike gave the background to this new topic; an announcement from the pulpit urging parishioners to support State Issue 17; opening the statute of limitations. He wondered how decisions were made to support political issues and if there was a policy covering them.

Richard shared a policy "Assumptions and Recommendations on Parish Communication about Political/Moral Issues", which was written by the Advisory Committee in 1995. After discussion we agreed to study this policy and discuss it further at the April meeting. We will also think of examples past and future and how they would be covered by this policy.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 19th, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. in the Gallagher Center, third floor meeting room

Jessica Stieritz volunteered to serve as scribe and prepare the opening prayer.