

ADVISORY COMMITTEE Minutes, November 4, 2004

Janet Neidhard, Rita Pritchard, Connie Widmer, Karen Hurley, Wanda Smith, Mike Marrero, Richard Bollman, Karen Brandstetter, Andrew Thompson. Unable to attend: Jim Brown and Peggy Raabe.

Reporting in: Janet and Andrew gave an account of their meeting with Stephanie Beck Borden, to better understand her background, current job, and to keep clear about the current work of the Social Mission Core Team. Karen H., Rita, and Connie reported a similar meeting with Sue Antoinette, about her high level of job satisfaction right now, her take on teen issues, and her expectation that more and more adults will be involved in this area. This part of our meeting was part of our need as a committee to get on board with new staff.

We proposed to continue these informational meetings with Scot Buzza, and with our key Sunday presiders.

We explored ideas about Sunday *welcoming ministry* here, and possible ways to augment what we already do: name tags on some Sundays, introducing new parishioners, introducing people to the web-site, encouraging expansion of the number of parishioners who right now act as greeters on Sunday. The current shape of the chapel, during construction, is so untypical that we thought it best to hold off on specific plans until the work is finished.

We spent the most of our time opening a discussion of *Lay Leadership in the parish*. We noted our tradition of lay/clergy collaboration since 1970, and began to list characteristics of leadership, how people become empowered, using examples we were familiar with. We came up with two kinds of new concerns: what kind of formation opportunities do we provide for members of the parish who take on these key leadership roles? And, are we succeeding in handing on this tradition to a younger generation?

We decided to expand this discussion by inviting interested parishioners to come to our next meeting, Wednesday December 1, which we will hold in the Chapel. We will also meet with Ed Schmidt, S.J., current Provincial Superior of the Chicago province, to better understand the long-term commitment of the province to the mission of Bellarmine parish.