

Parish Cluster 23 Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2005
Hosted by St. Anthony's

Attendance:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr. Reggie Brissette	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr. Lawrence Conley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr. Norm Carpentier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr. Joseph Daniels
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharon Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat McHatton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elaine Rioux	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Hart
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna Libby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dick Peterson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lynn Shorty	<input type="checkbox"/> Anna Cutter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bernie Filieo	<input type="checkbox"/> David Bois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Martha Corkery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ernie Lebel
<input type="checkbox"/> Ben DeRoche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Martha Conroy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Twomey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Soma

Meeting began with a prayer led by Fr. Brissette, then turned over to Martha Conroy. Minutes from the Oct. 12th meeting, agendas and updated statistical worksheets were distributed. Group was made aware of cluster member changes for St. Anthony's – Ben and Anna have stepped down from the committee. We welcome to the group Russ and Lisa Champagne, as well as Leo Lambert.

Email address for: The Champagne's = russchampagne@verizon.net
Mr. Lambert = llretired@yahoo.com

8-1 Update on Our Lady of Perpetual Help Fr. Norm Carpentier

The group was informed that St. Joseph's College and OLPH have formed an exploratory committee (with the Bishop's approval) to research the possibility of building a church/chapel complex in partnership with the college. This would help support college ministry and may prove to be a reasonable solution for addressing OLPH's inadequate space for Religious Education and building maintenance needs. Should this be pursued further, OLPH would change location closer to the college (approximately 3-4 miles from existing location). This could certainly impact our planning committee's work and decision-making. Attached to these minutes is a memo introducing the concept of a joint venture prepared by St. Joseph's College's Mr. Yauch and OLPH's Fr. Carpentier.

8-2 Discussion by David Twomey – Finance Representative for the Diocese

Mr. Twomey was asked by us to attend our meeting to help clarify a few questions relating to parish finances etal. He reminded us that the primary goal of this process is for Evangelization and ensuring a vibrant faith community in this clustering process. After reviewing our meeting minutes, he felt that we may be "hung up" on statistics. Our cluster is facing several challenges: the Westbrook Catholic Community phenomenon, OLPH's collaboration with St. Joseph's College, St. Anne's with its capital improvement campaign, to name a few. Further comments on these challenges:

- Westbrook needs to be part of this process, but we must remain sensitive to their experiences in the last two years. There is an assumption that this community is unlikely to consolidate with yet another parish; it should remain as a worship site.
- OLPH and St. Joseph's College: this needs to be explored further for needs and potential pitfalls. This has an uncertain outcome
- How do we accommodate those developing and growing communities northwest of Gorham? It is important to investigate demographics in those areas

Q: Help clarify the models and the "givens" across all four options:

Twomey: The greatest fear of parishioners is that there no longer will be individual parish commissions. The models do offer flexibility in how we feel we want to keep our identity at each worship site – our group should make a recommendation for the specific model we feel would best serve our cluster, but we should also identify how we feel each ministry will be supported at the worship sites. Some of the "givens" identified:

- One pastoral council for the entire cluster (with representation from each worship site)
- One finance council for the entire cluster (with representation from each worship site)
- There will be a central administrative office potentially housing key positions of business administrator and parish life coordinator

- The pastor and two vicars will be limited to four masses each weekend. This led to a question re: definition of weekends, and does this include funerals/weddings? Will need to clarify, but the sense was that this was not included in the 4 mass limit.

Q: Are we moving too quickly in this process – should we take smaller steps to ensure stability?

Twomey: We can suggest a timeline within our recommendation that implementation occur only in four years, etc., keeping in mind what is most feasible within our cluster. We also need to identify the location of the central business office. The key is to state the rationale for the recommendations made. However, the need to make these recommendations is limited to the existing timeline of June 2006.

Q: Do we have hard data to support growth projections?

Twomey: No. We recommend looking at surrounding towns and how their trends impact our cluster – we need to be thinking about the “common good” for all.

Q: Why renovate and repair offices now (in Westbrook) when we are unsure where the central office is to be located?

Twomey: Westbrook should engage in discussions, but we should encourage and maintain existing momentum for the worship site development. The assumption is that there will continue to be offices at each worship site.

Q: Should our cluster committee help St. Anthony’s right now?

Twomey: We should allow them to “catch up” – then they can share the gift of their experiences with the group as we develop our final recommendation.

Miscellaneous comments:

- Need to look at travel trends of neighboring communities
- Our plan/recommendation should be meeting ministry needs while also be practical in its financial demands for implementation
- Recommendation was made to have a discussion with the pastor from neighboring clusters, specifically with Limerick/Sanford/Wells cluster.

8-3 Reading of Minutes

Lynn

Minutes were reviewed briefly and open action items discussed:

- Complete remaining data collection for “major statistics worksheet” -- Still some items to be obtained. With regard to maintenance issues, the group was asked to prioritize items by necessity (safety, required), identify costs, and develop a timeline for a 5 year protection plan
- Identification of top seven Data Collection Elements (All) and return to Lynn for data compilation – Results have been documented and shared with Bernie. Discussion deferred to a future meeting.
- Develop a five year capital plan once a recommendation is identified (All)
- Need to clarify with Ernie the necessity of having a representative from the Chancery at the individual parish meetings (Bernie) – the answer is YES – Ernie will attend the Bridgton meeting, and Martha will be the representative at the Fryeburg meeting
- Initiate development of an organization chart (Bernie) – this was attached to the meeting agenda handout
- Development of a FAQ sheet (Lynn) – Recommendation was made to strike the comment referring to Finances. With that change, the sheet was approved for distribution at the upcoming parish meetings.

8-4 Individual Parish Meetings

Martha Conroy and Bernie Filieo

- Bridgton group on Wednesday, November 9th for 6:30pm mass and meeting to follow. Agenda for that meeting was discussed and approved. Handouts will include the New Evangelization document, FAQ sheet, Objective statement, and agenda for the evening.
- Fryeburg meeting: Thursday, November 17th for 6:30pm mass and meeting to follow.
- Windham meeting: Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30pm

- Gorham meeting: Tuesday, January 3rd at 6:30pm
- Westbrook meeting: TBA

8-5 Action Items:

Bernie Filieo

- Complete remaining data collection for “major statistics worksheet” -- Still some items to be obtained from OLPH and Westbrook. With regard to maintenance issues, the group was asked to prioritize items by necessity (safety, required), identify costs, and develop a timeline for a 5 year protection plan
- Develop a five year capital plan once a recommendation is identified (All)
- Initiate development of an organization chart (Bernie)
- Development of a FAQ sheet (Lynn) – Ongoing project – add information as clarification is obtained

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, December 6TH AT 6:30PM
Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Windham

Thanks to Fr. Brissette and his community for providing refreshments and a comfortable atmosphere in which to meet!