

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PASTORAL COUNCIL OF ST. DENIS PARISH**

19 January 2010

A meeting of the Pastoral Council of St. Denis Parish was held at 7:00 p.m. on Jan 19, 2010 in the Parish Center offices. Present were Fr. Jose Shaji, Mary Bennett, Mary Chan, Silvia Vonderlinden, Roy Sardina, and Michel Baylocq. Parish Staff (Sister de Chantal and Rosemary Lyon) were present by invitation. Father Jose called the meeting to order at 7 pm and led the opening prayer.

1. Approval of Minutes. The minutes from the Nov 12, 2009 meeting were accepted.

2. Review.

The Thanksgiving Mass was very well attended. Many parishioners brought food to the Mass for blessings.

The Giving Tree Xmas gift drive was organized by Joan Barada, who did a fantastic job of raising funds and involving the parish children. All the gift requests were fulfilled, and every family received a gift card.

The Parish Council dinner of Dec. 11 was hosted by Fr. Jose with a delicious Indian buffet.

The Gold Country trip on December 5 had about 32 participants. Unfortunately, several people fell ill, and were unable to make the trip.

The Christmas Tea was very popular and continues to increase in attendance. This year, 120 parishioners enjoyed the food and company. Fr. Jose spoke at the event.

Christmas Mass at St. Denis and Our Lady of the Wayside drew large congregations. The 4pm Christmas Eve Mass continues to be the most popular service. This year, the first 2 rows of pews were reserved for older parishioners. That was very popular, and next year, Fr. Jose may try reserving a couple more rows. The Epiphany Mass had a wonderful performance by the parish children for the Epiphany Pageant.

The new parish website has been well received. It was suggested that altar-servers could use it to sign-up for Masses.

Rosemary Lyon and her team held the Confirmation Class retreat for 52 children. Fr. Jose said that they had an excellent program, and the kids were very engaged. The Religious Education team did a great job organizing the day, lining up speakers, providing food and chaperones.

The Senior Luncheon held on Jan 19 at the Parish Center suffered from the power blackout during the storm. The menu was shuffled at the last minute, and a hardy group of 25 parishioners enjoyed the gathering despite the blackout.

3. New Business.

The Portuguese/Spanish Dinner will be held on Jan 31 in the Parish Center at 5pm. So far, 67 people have signed up. Silvia Vonderlinden and Roy Sardina have been planning the menu (Roy has the Spanish dishes, and Silvia the Portuguese dishes). Silvia reviewed the menu planning, and gave out assignments. Roy volunteered his mother to make the dessert. The meal set-up will start at 3:30 on Sunday.

Fr. Jose will meet with an outside group who has proposed to hold a Baby Shower at St. Denis. These have been held at other parishes previously.

Fr. Jose discussed the preparations for Lent. As in previous years, the parish will serve a simple lunch on Ash Wednesday following the noon Mass, and then simple dinners on the following Wednesdays in the Parish Center following the 6pm Mass. Each meal will be served by a different parish group. The dates and servers will be 2/17 (Seniors), 2/24 (Outreach/Social), 3/3 (Pastoral Council/Religious Ed), and 3/10 (Choir/OLW).

The Parish Council then reviewed the St. Denis mission statement, and discussed how to update it.

The meeting closed with a discussion of the parish youth group.

4. Executive Session. Father Jose then asked if there were any Executive Session topics that needed to be discussed. There were none.

There being no further business to come before the St. Denis Catholic Parish Council, the meeting was adjourned until the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010, at 6 pm.