

**St. Isaac Jogues Parish
Parish Council Fact Finding
4/29/2008
Agenda**

Those in attendance: Father Andrew Luczak (Pastor), Don Angelaccio, Patricia Angelaccio, Jerry Carsello, Felix Dospil, Edwin D'Souza, Alex Gairabetoff, Audrey Pampel, John Preston, Louella Preston, Rose Santos, Dan Sobieski, Dee Stanton(staff) and Nancy Winans

Written Responses submitted by staff members Irene Baron and Bob O'Keefe.

Opening Prayer: Father Luczak

Opening Goal: Alex Gairabetoff

Our goal is to re-establish a Parish Council at St. Isaac Jogues Parish as prescribed by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The first phase of this re-building process is discernment. The first step in this process is to gather facts about our past Council to describe its' past achievements as well as its' short-comings.

We need the input of our parishioners especially the former Council/Commission members to help us with establishing this information. Once we determine the facts, we will meet with Rita Kattner and then proceed to the next phase which is the actual formation of a new Parish Council.

Tonight's goal is to do the following:

- 1) We would like to begin with a written response to a questionnaire that will be handed out. The written answers are to be made anonymously.
- 2) We will read the results of the survey and continue with discussions and comments.

Parish Council Fact Finding Survey
4/29/08

Question 1) What were some of the achievements of the Parish Council/Commissions at SIJ?

X = 1 additional time mentioned

Processed orally from anonymous written responses

1. Bring the Parish together as a family X X
2. Mission statement created X X X X
3. Good formation sessions established when forming council/commissions
4. Commissions active X
5. Communication from PPC to Commissions X X X

6. Commissions—Communications to and from X X
7. Lay input to council
8. Info from Archdiocese to PPC
9. Formations of Commissions, Council
10. Hospitality Weekends X X X
11. Coordination of Parish events
12. Coordination of Parish Calendar
13. Celebrated important milestones i.e., Father Hennessey's 25th Anniversary, Father Fialkowski's 25th Anniversary, Father Brinker's Anniversaries
14. Support for Father Roman Zbieranski to come to SIJ
15. SIJ 50th Anniversary Activities
16. Decision for Northridge College Prep not to build at SIJ
17. Regrouped church bulletins by Commissions
18. PPC Guidelines formalized
19. Lay PPC interactions with other local PPCs
20. Reached out to the Filipino Community and always had at least one member on Council
21. Archdiocesan Leadership day participation X
22. Meyers Briggs survey of PPC
23. Parish visioning of how to run PPC
24. Annual Reports to parish about Council
25. Annual Parish Ministry Fair X
26. Able to attract people to Commissions
27. Boosted St Vincent DePaul and Parish Nurse Program
28. Gave a voice to Religious Education Program
29. One hour of prayer, prepared on a council member rotation basis, was always a delightful experience.

Question 2) What were some of the short-comings of the Parish Council/Commissions?
All Written Responses

1. Same people involved-too few workers
2. Discernment process was not understood by many X
3. I don't remember!
4. I don't think that Parishioners or even the Council members really understood the purpose and the workings of the PPC
5. It never reached to the organizations and it made no real difference to them that a Council existed. X
6. It never really seemed to "grab" the parish as a whole either.
7. At -large members had no real forum to get input from Parishioners so were they truly able to "represent"...
8. Confusion about purpose of Commissions' relationships with Council, etc.
9. Heard many complaints that meetings were a waste of people's time. X
10. I don't think it was ever full strength. It was a little complex understanding how each related to the other

11. Bringing an item to council where it could have been a discussion, but all was already decided
12. Changing from every other month meetings caused a lack in communication to organizations or commission
13. Ability to maintain interest
14. "Competition" with parish staff — conflict X
15. Parish inability to recognize role of PPC
16. The commissions did not have enough members
17. Council did not have viable topics to give input on regarding parish vision or immediate concerns
18. Things were already decided by Pastor and staff
19. There was occasional bickering among some of the parishioners but I believe it was resolved for the most part.
20. Eventually the esprit de corps of members diminished as new members became harder to find
21. Too many meetings of the Council which was pared down to 4 per year X
22. Lack of staff support
23. Some people thought the council was going to run the parish
24. I honestly felt that the PPC never accomplished anything.
25. At the end of the year, the PPC bulletin report was that of what the staff had accomplished throughout the year.
26. Sometimes endless hour meetings were spent deciding who was responsible to the Pastor and who made the decisions.
27. Early on staff felt disrespected, making it difficult for staff to function. After awhile, the Council accepted the staff.
28. Questions about staff reports were directed to the Pastor, not to the staff member giving the report.

Question 3) Was there a time PPC was thriving? All Written Responses.

1. It provided a forum for Parishioners to join/help participate in various interests.
2. Yes - for the first several years.
3. Don't know for sure but not during the time of my involvement
4. No
5. Yes, I think when the members on Council felt that their opinions or ideas were being heard.
6. Yes, through its beginning years
7. I think in the beginning it was thriving, but then dwindled down because of commitment and not fully understanding.
8. Yes, throughout most of the 12 years of Council. It was only the last year of it where it slowed down.
9. At the initial creation of the Council. X
10. Yes, for many years.
11. It was thriving, with a lot of devoted people, but no accomplishments.

Question 4) Can you give reasons for its eventual decline? All Written responses

1. People burned out. X
2. New parishioners were not interested.
3. It became (in my opinion) a rubber stamp for the Pastor's and staff's wants/needs.
4. Lack of council members to effectively implement functions of the council.
5. Members were the same individuals who were already doing many other functions in the parish.
6. Lack of new members X
7. Obvious lack of interest by the greater majority
8. Parishioners wondered why it was necessary
9. No clear purpose - confusion or misunderstanding about whether it was visionary or policy making. X
10. Lots of things on paper but then what happened (5 year plan)
11. Overlap of where ministries belonged, etc.
12. Often seemed to be a tension with staff, organizations, etc.
13. No one really came forward to work.
14. People wanted to be on council but no real connection with a commission or organization
15. Time constraints. X
16. Changing council to every other month - this lost or at least lacked an effective communication process
17. Decline in commissions, therefore a decline on people in council
18. Direct relation to attitude of the Pastor
19. PPC serves at the will of the Pastor to be as involved or not as involved as he desires
20. Participants in PPC seek "power and influence"
21. Continued participation is in a direct relationship to what their perception is relative to what they feel is being accomplished.
22. Barriers: Closing of the school, renovation of the church, use of property, and bringing cultural diversity together
23. Lack of understanding of what it was all about.
24. Time commitment.
25. Not enough people saw themselves as participants. It seemed that they were OK with the Councils/Commissions it just wasn't for them.
26. The purposes were well-intentioned but did not survive the on setting apathy.
27. Not enough younger people ever got involved
28. Lack of interest by the Indian community
29. Lack of accomplishments
30. People had their own personal agenda.
31. People thought it would be a decision making group, rather than advisory to the Pastor.
32. Parishioners felt it was a waste of time to go to Council meetings or even join.
33. Commissions were able to function beautifully without the Council.

Oral Discussion Question 5 What are your suggestions for the new Parish Council?
Louella Preston served as moderator of the oral discussion

1. Become better Catholics, start with small groups
2. Get a list and identify people in Parish
3. Father needs training
4. People need to know what they're getting into
5. Need to strengthen the organizations X
6. Need new people X
7. May need a new model
Continuation of Question 5 from WRITTEN RESPONSES
8. Need to address youth and RE families
9. Need to do "mission" work.
10. Pray a lot
11. Explore ideas of how PPC can become viable
12. What should be done differently?
13. Have 6 - 10 members vs. 12 - 15 with 1 rep. from each Commission.
14. Combine Commissions to avoid overlapping.
15. Provide a clear definition of what is expected of them and what their Parish role will be. X X
16. PPC input should be obtained before final Pastoral decisions are made.
17. Have small achievable goals so one can see progress toward the ultimate goal, i.e., good Christian Christ-like goals.
18. Need support of the Pastor.
19. Need "Leadership training" sessions.
20. Council should be advisory to the Pastor and Staff—not decision making.
21. Council must be able to accept staff and work with them.
22. Council should have at least two at-large representatives.

ORAL DISCUSSION Need to Hear or Say

1. Start formation in September
2. Let the Parish know they're needed
3. Utilize the website
4. Need to stress involvement of young people
5. Council is good for communication
6. Parish needs to hear it from the Pastor
7. First formation needs to be with WHOLE Parish
8. Need to involve new people
9. Build up organizations
10. What is the Pastor's Vision for PPC?
11. Where are the successful councils in the Archdiocese?
12. Need a Parish survey?
13. Use former members as resource
14. Need to know why councils are mandated from the Cardinal. X
15. Need to engage the Asian Community

Alex Gairabetoff and Louella Preston, as Deanery Representatives, will collate all the written responses. They will publish the results on paper to all who attended and to staff who submitted written responses. A computer disc that contains the written results will be given to Pastor Luczak. Pastor Luczak will arrange for the results to be put on the SIJ website. Pastor Luczak will give the results to Rita Kattner, representative from the Archdiocese. A June, 2008 meeting will be arranged for former PPC members, i.e. those who participated in the fact finding meeting, and interested others to meet with Pastor Luczak and Rita Kattner regarding the next steps in Council formation.

May 12, 2008