

# Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 6, 2016

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**In Attendance:** John Dickhaus (Chairperson), Brian Baurichter, Laura Brausch, Donna Cox, Janet Davis, Paul Justice, Patty Pryor, Rev. Bill Stockelman, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

**Absent:** None

**Guest:** None

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**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairperson John Dickhaus.

**Faith Formation:** Donna Cox quoted from Jn 3:16-21. This reading tells us that God did not send Jesus to earth to condemn it. Jesus was sent to save us so that everyone who believes in him will not be condemned. She continued with a written meditation on this reading. The meditation points out that John's writing provided a disclaimer to the reader so the reader understands that Jesus came to save, not to condemn. Those who fear a vengeful God can take solace in the fact that Jesus came to save not only them but everyone.

The members reflected upon the reading and the meditation pondering the if there is anything in the parish that indicates people are not forgiven. What does one say when another person indicates they cannot be forgiven?

Paul Justice replied that adversity makes us stronger and that when we are tested by God, we get stronger. Fr. Bill reminded the members that everyone is a sinner and that we must rely on the mercy of God. Brian Baurichter added that, unlike physical injury, there is no immediate consequence or punishment for sin. We must hold ourselves accountable.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the March 9, 2016 meeting were approved.

**Easter Vigil/Faith Formation:** Fr. Bill gave a brief update on the spiritual state of the parish. He told the members that during the Easter Vigil, 47 sacraments were received by parishioners. He also said that he received a letter from the Archdiocese asking about the parish's faith formation efforts since it has been noted that we, unlike many other parishes, are a growing parish. Jeannie Stevens submitted a list of programs shown below to provide to the Archdiocese.

Alpha	Seven Deadly Sins	The Call & the Gifted
Joy of Gospel	In-house parish mission	Membership in Formed.org
Following Christ	Parish library	Parish app
Lenten Groups	New Evangelization	Catholicism DVD program
Christ Renews His Parish	Grandparents for Faith	Book studies

**Follow Up Items:** Chairman Dickhaus continued a discussion from the last meeting regarding the fee for funerals. He discovered that the average fee charged by Catholic Churches in this area is between \$250-\$300. (St Bernadette is \$250.) For weddings, however, St Bernadette does not charge any fee. Fr. Bill views Holy Matrimony as a sacrament and thus no fee can be imposed. Other local Catholic Churches, however, do levy a fee ranging from \$300 to \$700. Some churches downtown impose even higher fees.

Chairman Dickhaus also reported on fees for the use of parish facilities (school cafeteria, Stievenard, Ventura). Parish organizations have priority, are not charged any fee, and there are no plans to change that policy. For others who rent the facilities, the current fees do not cover the cost of cleaning, utilities, etc. The members supported the concept that any usage fee for parish facilities should at least cover the cost. Chairman Dickhaus will generate a fee schedule to present to the Council for the next meeting.

**School Master Plan Update:** Chairman Dickhaus reported that 206 registrations have been received for the 2016-2017 school year. Plans to convert the computer room are continuing with some revisions. The Request For Proposal (RFP) to hire a consultant to develop a school master plan is on hold pending some additional analysis of evolving factors.

Chairperson Dickhaus noted that Duke Energy will have a team at the school next week to assist in estimating costs for needed electric upgrades. He also indicated that the school roof will need to be replaced by the summer of 2017. The cost to replace the roof could range between \$100,000 to \$110,000 so financing will be an issue. Members mentioned considering options to raise the money for the new roof but no decision was reached.

In addition, Chairperson Dickhaus reminded the members of the need to make repairs to the back parking lot behind the gym. The section near the ballfields will be repaired first.

**Wine & Cheese – April 30:** Chairperson Dickhaus passed around sign-up list for the upcoming wine & cheese social for new members of the parish.

**Pastor's Corner:** Fr. Bill:

- Informed the members that Mike Kelly, a former member of the parish, was recently promoted to Lt. Colonel. He has been in the Air Force for 15 years and has logged 900 hours of combat flying time.
- Told the members of a recent conference he attended that was focused on the Church and athletics. He learned that that the Church believes athletics that are well done have a value. In fact, one presenter said: "Watching an NFL game brings us closer to God." Furthermore, every coach is a leader of a youth group and thus sports becomes a tremendous platform for ministry. A coach's role is to help form kids. Participating in sports is part of your call to holiness. Sports creates encounters that can result in a natural benefit for God.

**Parish Voice/New Business:**

- Paul Justice reported that he has received complaints about parking in the lot adjacent to the church that is designated for those with disabilities. The reports reflect an inadequacy of such spaces.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**Upcoming meeting of the Pastoral Council  
Wednesday May 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

Approved: May 4, 2016