

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 5, 2017

In Attendance: John Dickhaus (Chairperson), Brian Baurichter, Janet Davis, Sarah Holland, Paul Justice, Rev. Bill Stockelman, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

Absent: Patty Pryor, Jeff Racic

Guest:

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by Chairperson John Dickhaus.

Faith Formation/Opening Prayer: Brian Baurichter read a passage from the book "Word on Fire" by Fr. Robert Barron. The passage endorses a belief that because God is in the need of nothing, any love we give Him is returned to us. Furthermore, whatever God does, He does so for the sake of others. In short, the world was loved into existence. The members of the Council paused to briefly reflect upon the reading before commenting.

Fr. Bill reflected upon the vastness of the universe and God's choice to visit our small fragment of that universe.

Paul Justice mentioned that by attending mass, we become associated with God.

Fr. Bill also stated that the fact that God needs nothing but that He created everything anyway is cause for contemplation. Also, since God created everything, there was a time when only God existed.

Minutes: The minutes from the February 1, 2017 Pastoral Council meeting were approved.

Campus Master Plan Update: Chairman Dickhaus distributed updated preliminary plans for the campus master plan. The plan now incorporated the input from over 100 parishioners who participated in the recent survey opportunity. Chairperson Dickhaus also mentioned that the restrooms at the school are continuing to deteriorate. The faculty restroom is now closed.

To move forward on the master plan, the following steps will be taken:

1. Chairman Dickhaus will discuss with the consultants (SHP) a concept to divide the proposed work into three phases (1-restroom replacement, 2-connecting buildings & cafeteria, 3-adding class/meeting rooms).
2. Once that review work is completed, the Executive Committee will examine the revised plans and make decisions regarding the master plan.
3. The consultants will update cost estimates.
4. A "town hall" meeting will be scheduled for all members of the parish to present the plan.

Sarah Holland indicated that approaching implementation in smaller phases made sense.

Brian Baurichter questioned the additional operating/maintenance expense. Chairman Dickhaus replied that the first two proposed phases (restrooms and cafeteria) will not create any significant cost increase since these facilities already exist.

Fr. Bill inquired about the support of the parish for the plan. He reminded the members that the Pastor and the Pastoral Council must support the plan before the Archdiocese will approve.

New Pastor: Fr. Bill announced that the new pastor (Fr. Tim Ralston) will assume his duties on July 1. He is currently a parochial vicar for several parishes that comprise the Coldwater Cluster. Since training for pastors is limited, he may need to rely on the advice from others such as the Pastoral Council. Fr. Bill will verify if Fr. Tim wants to hold the Pastoral Council meeting on July 5 as scheduled.

School Update: Chairperson Dickhaus reported that the School Open House went well. He also noted that the preliminary enrollment for kindergarten next year is less than desired. Overall, however, total enrollment for grades K-8 next year mirror enrollment for this year.

Fr. Bill commented on the difficulties associated with the school. Tuition is established months before personnel expenses and enrollment are set so making the revenue and expenses meet is a difficult task. The efforts of Liz (School Principal) to increase enrollment were noted.

Upcoming Events: A retirement party for Fr. Bill is scheduled for the evening of June 10. The outdoor event will have live music. Food (hot dogs, brats, etc.) and soft drinks will be free. There will be a charge for other beverages. Fr. Bill will request donations to offset the cost of the party.

Chairperson Dickhaus informed the members that the grand prize for this year's festival will be a 2017 Ford Escape (or \$20,000). Tickets for the raffle will be \$25. The car will be on display at the retirement party and raffle tickets will be sold as well. Some preliminary drawings are being planned to take place during the retirement party.

Pastor's Corner: Fr. Bill reported that he has purchased house in the area. He expressed gratitude to those who have assisted with repairs and improvements.

Parish Voice/New Business: No new business was brought before the Council for consideration.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting Wednesday May 3, 2017 (cancelled)</p>

Approved: June 7, 2016