

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday July 30, 2014

In Attendance: Bev Barnes (Chairperson), Sarah Holland, Rev. Bill Stockelman, Donna Cox, John Dickhaus, Angie Tucker, Paul Justice, Laura Brausch, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

Absent: None

Guest: None

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairperson Barnes.

Faith Formation: Donna Cox presented a prayer asking the Lord to see the blessing that He has bestowed and is bestowing upon us. The prayer was followed by a reading from Chapter 12, verse 3-8 from the letter of Paul to the Romans. The reading reminds us that a body has many parts and those parts do not function alike. Likewise, while we are one body in Christ, we all have been given different gifts and each should use those gifts to the best of our ability.

The members reflected upon the reading and how they use the blessings from God as a member of St. Bernadette. Members spoke of those who visibly contribute to the parish as well as those who use their gifts in ways not known to most.

Minutes: The minutes from the July 2, 2014 meeting were approved with a minor revision regarding the upcoming relationship with St. Thomas More parish.

Election Schedule Review: Chairperson Barnes reminded the members about the Pastoral Council election process that will commence in August.

Festival Update: John Dickhaus updated the group of some changes for this year including:

- Improved prizes for kid games
- More food choices such as meatball hoagies and grilled chicken sandwiches
- Expanded beverage options to include more beer choices, wine, and margaritas
- Some booths will be relocated to increase movement of people.

School Report: Chairperson Barnes had no update but Fr. Bill did state that all teachers were hired and that the enrollment was at 191.

VBS Report: Sarah Holland reported that the program went well. While the enrollment (70) was a little less than last year, the attendance of participants was better. She reported that the kids loved the program but it did require a lot of work for the volunteers. Additional volunteers, even for just the preparation work, would be beneficial to the program.

Importance of Planning (Next Steps): Angie Tucker presented an overview of Chapter 4 (Faith and Values in the Prophetic Planning Process) of "The Art of Change". She distributed a handout summarizing the key points of that chapter. Her handout portrayed the position that it is essential that one believes that human beings are the world's greatest assets and that people will work towards the common good while searching for the "more" in life.

Prophetic planners assume the role of a prophet. They are immersed in God's promises and the community. He/she serves as a mediator between the past and the future. The planning process must remember the past and embrace the challenges of the future.

Decisions made in the planning process must reflect four fundamental values:

1. Respect the past
2. Embrace conversion
3. Be bold
4. Discerning God's will

After the summary, the members discussed the implications of the chapter to the situation at St. Bernadette. Chairperson Barnes commented that faith doesn't always drive people but activities do. Sarah Holland added that faith may come if they keep coming to activities. The discussion then focused on how diversity comes from different backgrounds and experience. Laura Brausch told the members about her personal experience with change at her workplace. Fr. Bill mentioned that the Sunday mass schedule could be an issue.

The members agreed that values are important but so are rituals. Members discussed ways to get input from parishioners. A Q&A exchange using the bulletin was one idea. Angie Tucker suggested incorporating a dedicated prayer into the mass.

Pastor's Corner: Father Bill informed the members that he recently conducted a Virtus class for 35 individuals. It is important that those who received the training maintain their certification by reading the monthly e-mail. Come September, those who allow their certification to lapse for three months will lose their certification.

Parish Voice: Paul Justice informed the members of several recent deaths. Chairperson Barnes announced that Angie Tucker will be the next Chairperson of the Pastoral Council.

Closing Prayer: A closing prayer was offered by Donna Cox. She asked God to give everyone help to be humble so that we can hear His voice and the grace to trust Him with the details of life.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Please note: The Council will next meet on Wednesday September 3, 2014.

Approved: 9/3/2014