

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 5, 2015

In Attendance: Angie Tucker (Chairperson), Sarah Holland, Rev. Bill Stockelman, Donna Cox, John Dickhaus, Janet Davis, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

Absent: Brian Baurichter, Laura Brausch (Laura participated via phone for part of the meeting.)

Guest: Brian Caperton, Director of Faith Formation; Mark Armstrong, Business Manager

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson Tucker.

Faith Formation: Chairperson Tucker read John 6:41-51. This reading relates the time Jesus proclaimed that He is “the bread of life”. After the reading, the members paused for a minute to reflect upon the reading. Afterwards, they spoke about how God is offering a new life through Jesus and how important it is to savor the food we receive from Him. Each member thought about the efforts they are making to search for Jesus.

Brian Caperton added how the Church provides us with routines (ceremonies, sacraments) to keep us engaged with Jesus with the hope that those engagement will lead to a more fulfilling relationship with Him.

Minutes: The minutes from the July 1, 2015 meeting were approved.

Office of Faith Formation: Brian Caperton, Director of Faith Formation, updated the members on his endeavors over the past month. He reported that:

- So far, there is 1 person registered for PRP this school year and 6 or 7 children registered for the RCIC program.
- There is a sufficient number of catechists for the upcoming school year and he is working on getting them certified.
- He is cautiously ordering books and supplies for the new school year.
- The Youth Ministry person will be providing confirmation preparation and he is looking to modify some aspects of communion preparation.
- When asked about how Council could assist his efforts, he did not offer any suggestions at this time.

Parish Financial Update: Mark Armstrong, Business Manager, provided a brief summary of the parish finances now that the fiscal year (July1-June30) has ended. In short, the parish broke even for the year even without receiving any bequests. Sunday collections increased by about \$10,000. School enrollment (K-8) was up but the pre-school program had fewer participants.

Mr. Armstrong expressed a concern with the consequences of teacher turnover. Several of the new teachers recently hired have more experience. While the additional experience is good from an educational point of view, that experience also results in higher salaries. Higher salaries and medical insurance expenses could result in a deficit by the end of the current fiscal year.

The budget for this fiscal year does not include any returning funds from the One Faith, One Hope, One Love Capital Campaign. Likewise, the budget does not include any of the parish expenditures mentioned as part of the campaign.

Parish Picnic: The members discussed preparations for the annual parish picnic and they were assigned tasks for the event scheduled for September 20 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The parish will supply the meat and each family attending will be asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Sign-up list will be posted in the Gathering Space soon.

Pastor's Corner: Fr. Bill informed the members about a report that was prepared by David Kissell, Archdiocese Director of Development Operation/Stewardship. The goal of the report was to identify concerns of parishioners that block greater participation in the parish. The report was based upon 15 interviews of parishioners. The concern mentioned by 11 out of the 15 was the formation of the Pastoral Region. A related concern expressed by 7 of the interviewees was the future of St. Bernadette after Fr. Bill retires.

Fr. Bill asked the members about what they are hearing from parishioners about the upcoming changes. A couple of members confirmed that they had heard similar concerns from parishioners. The members then discussed ways to address those concerns. John Dickhaus reminded the members that the creation of a Pastoral Region Coordinating Committee (PRCC) is a first step. Sarah Holland recommended promoting current leaders so parishioners could be reassured that work is being done to address the issue and to raise awareness of how others can participate more in the parish.

The Council decided to use the bulletin to identify leaders by posting a picture and including a description of their leadership role.

Parish Voice: Chairperson Tucker:

- Reminded the members to read the documents supplied at the July meeting related to the Pastoral Region prior to the September meeting.
- Requested members think about the school – its future growth needs, the desired size, and the implications of those items.
- Asked members to consider the position of Chairperson.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

**The next Pastoral Council Meeting is Wednesday September 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
A Stievenard Meeting will follow afterward at approximately 8:30 p.m.**

Approved on September 8, 2014