

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 5, 2012

**Present:** Fr. Bill, Bev Barnes, Sarah Holland, Paul Justice, Charlie Quehl, Jim Sperry, Mark Zurlinden, Donna Thompson and Tom Salerno

**Faith Formation:** Charlie Quehl. Members committed to months in 2013 they will be responsible for providing Faith Formation for the meetings.

**November Minutes:** Minutes were reviewed and accepted and will be sent to Sylvia for website publication.

**Filling Empty Pews:** Fr. Bill provided handouts concerning the decline in Mass attendance. Only 23% of American Catholics attend Mass regularly. 7% are contributing 80% of the Sunday offering and 7% contributing 80% of volunteer hours. The two groups overlap 84%. October count showed a slight decline in attendance at St. Bernadette.

Papal response - Pope Benedict has seen a need to address the crisis. We can no longer practice "business as usual". He has declared this the Year of Faith. Catholics are no longer passing on their faith. The Pope is calling for an "authentic and renewed conversions" to Christ through study of Document of Vatican II, Catholic Catechism, and parish sponsored opportunities.

Archdiocesan response – Catholics Come Home campaign with 1600 television ads running December 14 – January 20. Dynamic Catholic Parish Book program in which 306 copies of Rediscovering Catholicism will be distributed at Christmas Eve and Midnight Mass. "Christ at the Center" focusing on nurturing family faith and Eucharistic communities. "Lighting the Way: A Vision for Catholic Schools".

St. Bernadette – Ideas were discussed on how to evangelize in our own community. Ideas were providing better training, purchasing books through the Matthew Kelly warehouse and providing information cards to new comers.

**School Report:** Tom reported on service projects various grades are participating in. The entire school will be donating \$1.00 or 2 can goods on Fridays so they can wear jeans. Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will perform their Christmas concerts on December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Registration is set to begin January 27<sup>th</sup>. Principal's Advisory Committee has been working with Fr. Bill on definitions finalized before Christmas break. The teachers are looking at new Science books for grades 3-8. Financial Fact handout will go home on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Pastor's Corner:** Fr. reported that after making inquiries around the Archdiocese concerning Deacon Dave Meyers it was determined he would not be a good fit for St. Bernadette.

Andrea Bridges was hired as the new Music Director. She was chosen for her pianist skills and singing voice. Feedback after her first weekend was very positive,

**Parish Voice:** A parishioner contacted Pastoral Council concerning issues during Mass which hampered his worship time. Council discussed possible solutions and Paul will contact him to actively engage him in finding a solution.

Jim has found employment in Johnstown, Ohio and informed the Council this is the last meeting he will attend. He is still planning to chair the festival for 2013.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 2, 2013

**Faith Formation:** Sarah Holland