

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 3, 2014

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

Absent: none

Guest: Dave Luebbering, St. Vincent de Paul

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Tucker.

Opening Prayer/Faith Formation: John Dickhaus opened the meeting by reading about the traditional Christmas song: "The Twelve Days of Christmas". The song was used as an aide to assist Catholics in England learn about their faith in such a way as not to violate prevailing law. For example, the "Partridge in the Pear Tree" represents Christ while the two "Turtle Doves" represent the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, etc.

Chairperson Tucker suggested sending this to religious teachers in the school.

Minutes: The minutes from the November 5, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted.

Presentation by St. Bernadette's Society of St. Vincent de Paul: Dave Luebbering reported that the SVDP at St. Bernadette serves only those living within the parish boundaries. People requesting assistance call a 24/7 number and the appropriate responses are made. The food pantry at St. Bernadette is open on the third Friday of each month. SVDP is able to purchase food from the Freestore Foodbank at very reasonable cost but it must adhere to the Foodbank's rules.

Currently, there are 19 active members and 3 associate members. SVDP at St. Bernadette generates revenue from their annual yard sale, grants, and donations. The funds are used to provide food, clothing, transportation, and rent/utility assistance. Generally, assistance is provided for only the short-term. SVDP made 873 house visits (an average of over 2 each day) during the last year.

Mr. Luebbering provided a tour of the parish food pantry to the Council members.

To better serve the needs of SVDP, Mr. Luebbering indicated that the following would be helpful:

- Additional space for food storage
- Painting of current storage room ceiling
- SVDP website development with link to parish website
- Making the annual "Giving Tree" project a parish function with assistance from SVDP
- More volunteers

Planning for Parish Transition – 2017: Chairperson Tucker commenced the discussion by reviewing the items she listed in the agenda (staffing needs, who is to handle parish functions, what will be the financial impacts, etc.).

Janet Davis inquired as to the functions that deacons and pastoral associates can perform. Fr. Bill responded that deacons can perform weddings and funeral services (without mass) as well as baptisms. Many deacons can also provide homilies. Deacons cannot celebrate mass, hear confessions, or perform the sacrament of the sick. Deacons provide their service at no cost to the parish. A Pastoral Associate is a lay person who performs a variety of tasks such as visiting the sick, working with the bereaved and processing annulment requests. They are paid positions. Their salary reflects their assigned duties. The local seminary offers training for Pastoral Associates.

Fr. Bill and Sarah Holland were part of an effort a few years earlier that considered possible organization changes for both St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette parishes in the future. That group proposed a preliminary leadership model that included 1 Pastor to share; 2 Business Managers (one per parish); 1 full-time bookkeeper or 2 part-time bookkeepers; 2 full-time Deacons (one per parish); 1 full-time DRE (STM); 1 part-time DRE (St. B); and 1 Pastoral Associate (St. B).

John Dickhaus stressed the need for administration and oversight of the parish. Sarah Holland indicated that is important to hire qualified people for the positions. Fr. Bill commented that any lay person in a leadership position must earn the respect and trust of the parish.

Donna Cox suggested talking to other parishes that have experienced a Collaborative Region. Fr. Bill encouraged Council members to conduct such visits and perform related research on the topic. Fr. Bill agreed to contact Fr. Len Wenke, the Archdiocese's Director of Pastoral Services, as a first step.

Pastor's Corner: Fr. Bill announced that there will be scheduling conflicts with the Pastoral Council meetings during the first part of 2015. After some discussion, the following schedule was adopted for 2015:

Wed Jan 7	Mon May 18	Wed Sep 2
Mon Feb 16	No meeting in June	Wed Oct 7
Mon Mar 16	Wed Jul 1	Wed Nov 4
Mon Apr 20	Wed Aug 5	Wed Dec 2

Parish Voice: No items reported.

Closing Prayer: John Dickhaus ended the meeting with a reading from Luke 2: 8-14 telling of the birth of Christ. He also offered some reflections for the holiday season.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Please note: The Council will next meet on Wednesday January 7, 2015.

Approved January 7, 2015