

# Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 2, 2015

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**In Attendance:** John Dickhaus (Chairperson), Brian Baurichter, Laura Brausch, Donna Cox, Janet Davis, Paul Justice, Patty Pryor, Rev. Bill Stockelman, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

**Absent:**

**Guest:** none

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**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m. by Chairperson Dickhaus.

**Faith Formation:** John Dickhaus opened the meeting by reading "Christmas Poem" by Julie Palmer. The poem tells the story of the nativity - a "faith-filled father" and "a young mother" giving birth to the "rescuer" in an "uninviting shack". It was, according to the poem, a birth that began the "transformation of heaven and earth".

The members reflected upon the poem. For some, it brought back memories of Christmases past particularly their family nativity sets. One member added that we need Jesus as a rescuer more and more.

Chairperson Dickhaus also distributed a fact sheet regarding Christmas carols.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the November 4, 2015 meeting were approved.

**Faith Formation Schedule-2016:** Members completed a sign-up list for faith formation assignments for the upcoming year.

**Pastoral Region Update/Discussion:** Fr. Bill provided copies of "Pathway for St. Bernadette Catholic Community". This pastoral plan, originally released in 2010, was intended to be used as a guide for the parish. It is based upon the mission statement of the parish. It has four goals (To Be Catholic, To Be Welcoming, To Enhance the Way We Worship God, and To Serve Our Neighbor). Each goal lists several methods to fulfill that goal.

The members reviewed the document and commenced a discussion about it. Their comments focused on ways to further implement the goals. Paul Justice suggested posting pictures of members. Patty Pryor added that the pictures should be added to the website and even include leaders of other ministries. Fr. Bill recommended the use of the video screen in the Gathering Space. Another idea was to provide handouts with contact information to new parish members at the quarterly welcoming socials. Chairman Dickhaus will ask Angie Tucker to come to the next meeting to take pictures.

Donna Cox commented that the parish needs to do more work on Goal #4 (Serving Our Neighbor). One idea was to post a weekly challenge in the bulletin to provide a way for every parishioner to do something to help their neighbor.

Some members also indicated a need for more structure in their worship. More small groups were suggested but everyone acknowledged the need for more group leaders for such a program to be successful. Janet Davis promoted the idea of creating a two-year plan for group topics. Members agreed to invite Jeannie Stephens to the January meeting to discuss this matter.

**Stievenard Committee:** Chairman Dickhaus told the members that the investment plan, recently advanced by the Stievenard Committee, had a serious omission that could jeopardize the fund in the

future. The plan was to eliminate the brokerage company and place the oversight of the fund's investment firm in the hands of three parishioners. While this plan would result in some administrative cost reductions, there would be a potential reduction of accountability. Chairman Dickhaus suggested that the plan be revised to retain a brokerage company for accountability. That firm would then ensure oversight of the investment firm in accordance with the goals of the Stievenard Committee. Three parishioners, however, would have the authority to manage the contract of the brokerage firm.

Paul Justice made a motion to adopt the revised plan. Janet Davis seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the members.

**Pastor's Corner:** Fr. Bill

- Spoke to the members of his time in court today where a man was sentenced to 7 years for killing a mother while driving intoxicated. He related how sad it was for both families.
- Told the members of the recently released movie "Spotlight", the story of reporters uncovering the abuse of children in the Boston diocese. He urged the members to have anyone contact him should they have a concern about the movie or the topic.
- Announced that the parish received two "bottle cap" benches. One will be in Gathering Space for a while for all to see. More bottle caps are being collected for another bench.
- Said the Christmas mass historically starting at midnight will begin at 11:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve this year.
- Indicated that there will be a new pre-school religious education program on Sunday mornings starting in January. The program, for 3 and 4 year olds, will run through the school year.
- Reminded everyone of the Year of Mercy and asked all members to keep thinking about it.
- Asked members for input on a homily regarding reducing gun violence. The members voiced different opinions on the topic but agreed that it's more than just guns. Like other addictions, it involves the devaluing of human life, the deficiency of mental health care, and the rebuff of God.

**Parish Voice:**

- Donna Cox asked about the row of lights not working on the variable message sign. Chairman Dickhaus will contact the vendor for repairs.
- Chairman Dickhaus reported that the recent wine social made about \$4,400.
- Chairman Dickhaus reminded the members of the Breakfast with Santa event on December 5.
- Paul Justice asked about a tree that was to be planted for a donation. The members were not familiar with the matter and asked for additional information from Paul.
- Laura Brausch informed the group of a concert to be held on December 6 at Holy Trinity Church in Batavia. It begins at 2:00 p.m.

**School Planning Committee Update:** Chairman Dickhaus communicated to the members the potential for two additional classrooms next year for the school. A committee has been exploring ideas including temporary trailers, new modular buildings, moving the computer lab, etc. Members offered some suggestions including transforming the cafeteria, using the gym, and using part of the parish office. Another option could be to limit the number of students. Chairman Dickhaus told the members that Pastoral Council and/or the Stievenard Committee may need to look at this issue in the very near future.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**Upcoming meeting of the Pastoral Council:  
Wednesday January 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

Approved: January 6, 2016