

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 3, 2016

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: None

Guest: None

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Dickhaus.

Faith Formation: Patty Pryor spoke of a person who died only a month after being diagnosed with cancer. While there was little time to prepare for death, her family assembled some inspirational messages to pass along to others. One such message was contained in an Inspirational Poem by an Unknown Confederate Soldier. The poem, read aloud to the members, includes the lines:

*I asked for all things that I might enjoy life.
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.*

Besides the poem, another inspirational message was found in the song "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)". Patty Pryor distributed a copy of the poem and song to each member. She also played the song for all to hear.

The members reflected upon the poem and song. Comments included that God doesn't always give you what you ask and that we should not box up our feelings but celebrate life with others while it is possible.

Minutes: The minutes from the January 6, 2016 meeting were approved.

Previous Meeting Follow-Up: Concerning the program to promote some ministries, Chairman Dickhaus informed the members that taking pictures of some Finance Committee members is not completed. Concerning the revised investment oversight plan for the Stievenard Fund, Chairman Dickhaus reported that the meeting has not yet taken place.

Future School Planning: Chairman Dickhaus and Fr. Bill both updated the members on the pending need for decisions regarding the school. With the conversion of the computer room into two classrooms, the needs of the 2016-2017 academic year appear to have been met. If growth continues, however, there are no simple options. There is a potential that the number of registrations for Kindergarten will exceed expectations. In that case, does the parish accept everyone or does the parish create a waiting list, accepting those who best meet certain criteria?

While the school building is structurally sound, it recently required boiler repairs and a new roof is needed in the near future. Parking lot repairs are also necessary. In addition, the impacts of the new high school and the reduced tuition to be offered at St. Thomas More are unknown. Another unknown factor is the wishes of the future Pastor.

Paul Justice recommended that the parish ask the Archdiocese for advice. Chairman Dickhaus informed the members that such a discussion had taken place and that the Archdiocese will support the plan of the parish provided it is financially sound. Donna Cox mentioned the potential of combining school resources with St. Thomas More parish in light of the upcoming Pastoral Region. Several members noted the potential resistance by parents.

The members concluded that the need for a master plan for the parish grounds is needed to provide options. Depending upon the scope of services requested, the cost for such a plan could range from \$15,000 - \$75,000. Chairman Dickhaus believed that, for the immediate needs of the parish, a cost of \$20,000 would be necessary.

Chairman Dickhaus reported that the School Planning Committee would be meeting soon and that by the next meeting of the Pastoral Council, a more detailed approach would be available for the members to discuss.

Financing Outside Interests: Chairman Dickhaus mentioned that a parishioner, who coordinated a special service last year on Memorial Day weekend, asked for some funds to perform the same service this year. The funds would be used to purchase coffee, donuts, and gift certificates. The members mentioned that volunteers for other services at the parish do so without any financial consideration. The general consensus of the members is that such a request for funds is not in the best interest of the parish.

Formation Ministry: At the January meeting, there was a discussion about steps that could be taken to be a more welcoming parish. One idea was to seek input from parishioners. Chairman Dickhaus indicated that he would ask Jeannie Stephens for some survey questions. To follow-up on that idea, Chairman Dickhaus distributed a set of ten questions for the members to review. Some members concluded that the ten questions were too many and that some were too wordy and/or too personal. Paul Justice and Donna Cox each offered some alternate questions for consideration. After some additional discussion on the questions, the members approved two:

1. *During mass, what would you change that would allow adequate time to reflect/communicate with the Lord?*
2. *What is your favorite activity at St. Bernadette and why?*

The questions will be followed by a brief demographic question. The survey questions would be on a half sheet of paper and distributed before and after masses during an upcoming weekend. A draft survey sheet with the questions will be available at the March meeting for final approval.

Pastor's Corner: Fr. Bill:

- Notified the members and encouraged their attendance at the upcoming mission program at the parish from February 28-March 3. The focus of the mission will be on mercy. Each evening, there will be a different presenter.
- Announced that the parish received the first check from the Catholic Community Foundation for \$45,000.

Parish Voice:

- Chairman Dickhaus reminded the members of the annual parish Mardi Gras event on February 6. Fr. Bill added that the event is an opportunity to engage other parishioners.

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

**Upcoming meeting of the Pastoral Council
Wednesday March 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Note: This meeting was originally scheduled for March 2.**

APPROVED: 3/9/2016