

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 1, 2017

In Attendance: John Dickhaus (Chairperson), Brian Baurichter, Janet Davis, Sarah Holland, Patty Pryor, Rev. Bill Stockelman, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

Absent: Paul Justice, Jeff Racic

Guest: Larry Brokamp, Parish Finance Committee

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson John Dickhaus.

Faith Formation/Opening Prayer: Patty Pryor opened the meeting with a prayer asking God's guidance while the parish transitions to a Pastoral Region and that the actions of the Council reflect His holy will. She then read from the Book of Proverbs, Chapter 16, verses 1-9. This reading reminds us that our plans and actions are all part of God's plan. "The human heart plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps." Patty Pryor told the members that the passage tells us not to worry about the transition plan we are undertaking because it is God's plan.

The other members of the Council commented on other sections of the reading. Sarah Holland mentioned "Entrust your works to the Lord and your plans will succeed." Fr. Bill noted the lines: "All one's way are pure in one's own eyes, but measurer of motives is the Lord". The members agreed that everyone should be open to this process and help with any resistance that comes up. Janet Davis suggested the use of a prayer for this transition to a Pastoral Region.

Minutes: The minutes from the January 4, 2017 Pastoral Council meeting were approved.

Presentation: Larry Brokamp, Finance Committee, distributed several spreadsheets showing a historic overview of parish financial data for the last 13 fiscal years. The data indicated a deficit of \$75,000 for fiscal year 2016. A reduction in the Sunday offering and increases in healthcare expenses were two major reasons for the deficit. The percentage of school expenses paid by the church in 2016 was 23%, an amount far below the average within the Archdiocese (35% to 45%). Sunday collections so far this fiscal year also remain below the 2015 level. The data also indicated:

- An increase in the number of registered parishioners
- Growth in the revenue generated by the school
- Except for mandatory payments and healthcare costs, most expenses are under control

The members discussed class size and its potential impact on the school budget. Sarah Holland mentioned that the most important fact is that 205 children are currently receiving a quality catholic education.

Parish Physical Facilities Master Plan: Fr. Bill asked the members about their understanding of the current effort to create a Master Plan for the parish campus. He passed out copies of a letter and survey being sent to all parishioners seeking their input on the planning process. The input received will aid the consultants in their work. A presentation meeting will be scheduled in the future to present the plan to the parish.

Fr. Bill and Chairman Dickhaus stressed that this study creates a “what if” plan. What if the need for more classrooms or religious training space becomes a reality and what if the funds became available? What would the parish do? This plan answers those questions. It better prepares the parish for a possible future that focuses on having all education conducted in one secure, multi-purpose complex.

Pastoral Region: Fr. Bill reviewed the Four Phases of Collaboration, a handout provided by Bishop Binzer on his recent meeting regarding the Pastoral Region. He indicated that the ideal level is #4 (Collaboration) but that it could take years to achieve that level. Several members indicated that there are opportunities now to assist each parish. Janet Davis mentioned that items could be placed in the bulletins of each church. Patty Pryor indicated that our parish should be open to opportunities in the future that the Pastoral Region could create. It is possible to share resources while maintaining individual parish identities.

The members then discussed the formation of a Pastoral Region Coordinating Committee. This will take place after the appointment of a new Pastor but the qualifications and method to select the committee members will be discussed at the next meeting.

Pastor’s Corner: Fr. Bill mentioned that a prayer for Pastoral Region is on the Archdiocese’s website. Patty Pryor and Janet Davis will research the prayer.

Parish Voice/New Business:

- Mardi Gras event to be held on February 25.
- Since March 1 is Ash Wednesday, the Pastoral Council meeting scheduled for that evening will be moved to Wednesday March 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting Wednesday March 8, 2017</p>

Note: The meeting scheduled for March 8, 2017 was cancelled.

Approved: April 5, 2017