

MINUTES FROM PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

January 12, 2011

PRESENT: Fr. Bill, Tim Geers, Kathy Waldeck, Charlie Quehl, Donna Thompson, Mark Zurlinden, Paul Justice, and Janet Davis

ABSENT: Tom Salerno

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF DECEMBER MINUTES: Minutes were approved.

SCHOOL REPORT: Tim reported for Mr. Salerno on the following;

- Second quarter ends Friday, January 14, and report cards will be distributed next Friday, January 21. Teachers can request parent conferences as needed.
- Three additions/changes to the Student Handbook were distributed last week: a new Dress Code; a statement on bullying; a clarification regarding truancy and the consequences based on Clermont County Juvenile Court policies.
- Last week Mr. Salerno met with grades K-4 and grades 5-8 to show a video on bullying. He emphasized the accepted definition ("repeated...with intent to harm") and the need for observers to report bullying. It should never be tolerated.
- Registration for next school year begins at the end of January and coincides with Catholic Schools Week. Discussions are on-going to establish tuition rates for next year for both the school and preschool.
- Ms Harris, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Salerno are seriously investigating the addition of one or two more classes to the preschool. Demand is high enough and the cost remains reasonable enough that we should be able to add one more 3 year old class and possibly one more 4 year old class. Each additional class could generate approximately \$15,000.00 in new income.

It was noted by Fr. Bill that St. Bernadette teachers' salaries are way below what the Archdiocese recommends, and definitely way below the public school salaries. We have very committed teachers.

5 YEAR PATHWAY REVIEWED: Tim added an introductory paragraph and updated a few changes that were made last month.

Fr. Bill reviewed with Council some interesting facts from his recent Priest's Conference in Michigan:

- Parishes cannot keep doing what we've always done, and flourish.
- All religions in the U.S. are not doing well.
- 1 in 10 Americans is a FORMER Catholic.
- Roughly 60% of Americans who were raised as Catholics are no longer practicing their faith.
- Roughly 30% of Catholics attend church regularly on Sunday.
- The issue of religion is RELEVANCE (or irrelevance)-there is a crisis of meaning. Catholics need to tell their Catholic story better, in a way that attracts.
- Youth generally retain their faith by 3 things: two, involved, Catholic parents, a lot of spirited practices/activities with the family and sincere spiritual or religious practices within the family.
- Parents are THE primary educators of religion to their children (faith is caught, more than it's taught).

Fr. Bill is greatly bothered by the lack of participation of our youth in the Sunday Masses. Do our children KNOW how important Sunday Mass is to us?

There was much discussion on how can we encourage and speak to our parish families. How are we to be "The Life of the Church"? The Holy Trinity could be a model of what Catholics stand for in America:

- Mutual Respect
- We are equals
- We share resources

Parents cannot hesitate to surround our children with a religious life

ST BERNADETTE PARISH- WHAT ARE WE WHEN WE ARE AT OUR BEST?

We are very welcoming, we have a great sense of community and identity, and we are great at embracing all and each other, no matter the difference in background, we have wonderful activities that draw us

together and that continue our spiritual growth, we have good attendance at Masses, good/spiritual homilies.

Fr. Bill reminded Council that it is our job to help sharpen a vision for our parish, and to help the ministries obtain that vision. Council will discuss next meeting, "Why am I a Catholic, and why do I stay a Catholic".

YOUTH MINISTRY- UPDATE ON CURRENT EFFORTS

There is a recently started program at St. Thomas More, The Edge Program. They are calling it Tri-Edge because three parishes are involved: St. Thomas More, St. Bernadette, and St. Veronica. Amy Zurlinden is trying to get some youth from St. B to get involved. It's each Sunday evening.

Sean Reynolds was here a couple of times to speak to parents-youth ministry starts with very young children and should grow with them.

St. B cannot currently afford a youth minister. Knights of Columbus will soon be having a movie/pizza night for families.

STIEVENARD BEQUEST MEETING SETUP- January 26, 2011

Tim will reprint the declaration page and have all Pastoral Council sign. Bayl & Gaynor to give Tim information and update of how things are going.

PASTOR'S CORNER: Fr. Bill will soon be meeting with Fr. Bill Wagner of St. Thomas More to START discussions of his intentions about his future with STM. Mass changes coming in November 2011 will be the biggest since 1970 (Vatican II), the new translation is supposed to be better and more beautiful. Rock Roll and Remember is February 26. This is a fundraiser for the entire parish.

PARISH VOICE: We had much discussion on the need to keep Christianity and Religion active in the family, from books and movies to artifacts and parish activities. It was stated that there is a new IRS ruling on tuition reimbursements and if it goes to the school it doesn't get assessed. Fr. Bill to get someone from Finance Council to come to the February meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 2, 2011.

FAITH FORMATION: Tim Geers