

# Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 6, 2016

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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:** Jeanie Stephens, Pastoral Associate For Evangelization and Discipleship

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**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Dickhaus.

**Faith Formation:** Brian Baurichter read from the Gospel of St. Luke, Chapter 3, verses 15-16 and 21-22. This reading presents the baptism of Christ by John the Baptist. The verses have John telling the assembled people that he is baptizing using water but that Jesus would use the Holy Spirit and fire. The reading also records God's announcement after the baptism that Jesus is God's son and that He is pleased with him.

The members of Council then reflected upon that reading. Donna Cox read from a book about the three baptisms of Jesus – one by water in the Jordan river, one by the cross, and one by the Holy Spirit. Father Bill mentioned that the reading indicates that even Jesus needed the Holy Spirit. He asked how well do we know the Holy Spirit? The discussion then focused on free will and if some people would be better off without it. To conclude their faith discussion, the members expressed their wonderment and mystery of God's interaction with mankind. In addition, they agreed with Fr. Bill that if Jesus took time to pray, then we should be able to find time to pray.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the December 2, 2015 meeting were approved.

**Welcoming Parish:** As a follow-up to the December meeting, Chairperson Dickhaus continued the idea to better promote some ministries, particularly to those new to the parish. The concept is to provide information (pictures and contact information) so parishioners would know who to contact to join the ministries. The bulletin, handouts, and other available media resources would be utilized. The members concurred that besides the Pastoral Council, the Finance Council, Greeters, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Music should be included in this welcoming program.

Chairperson Dickhaus also inquired about a concept to seek input from parishioners about ways to enhance the St. Bernadette experience. He proposed asking four questions to discover things that can be improved. Fr. Bill asked that the questions/survey also include a way to list things that are right with the parish. Other members mentioned practices that could be utilized at St. Bernadette to augment the experience here. Paul Justice inquired as to the use of red wine during mass (white wine is currently used) to better illustrate Christ's blood. Chairperson Dickhaus will seek input from Jeannie Stephens about potential questions and Fr. Bill asked members to think about possible questions over the next month.

In addition, Chairperson Dickhaus asked about parishioners introducing themselves during the mass when the sign of peace is given. Some members mentioned that such a practice has been done before at some masses.

**Formation Ministry:** Jeannie Stephens spoke about her formation ministry work at the parish. In a world where many see God disappearing, she views her role as a seed planter. She sows seeds of faith so that perhaps God's presence in the world may grow and be seen by more people. She works with others in the parish to fulfill her mission and she sees opportunities for outreach within our parish.

She recommended three books for reading (all available at Amazon and other book sellers).

1. "Forming Intentional Disciples" by Sherry Weddell
2. "Divine Renovation" by James Mallon
3. "Rebuilt" by Michael White

Ms. Stephens also mentioned the use of the website: [www.FORMED.org](http://www.FORMED.org) as an excellent resource for books, movies, and other media. (The password for parish members is **D6FD88**.)

Over the years, she has been a part of programs such as Alpha, Following Christ, the Grotto mass, the Spirituality booth at the festival, the recently-opened parish library, family conference, book studies, and others.

She concluded her presentation by distributing a handout entitled "Our Sunday Obligation" to the members.

**Pastor's Corner:** Fr. Bill did not have any new items to report to the members.

**Parish Voice:**

- Donna Cox asked about the lack of exterior lighting after a recent 5:00 p.m. mass. Fr. Bill reported that the lights are controlled manually.
- Janet Davis informed the members that the Welcoming Committee's next social for new parishioners will be on Saturday January 23 at the 5:00 P.M. mass. Members were asked to assist with refreshments and/or make an appearance.
- Brian Baurichter asked about a damaged light pole on the property.
- Chairman Dickhaus reminded the members of the square dance event on January 9.
- Chairman Dickhaus also informed the members that boys basketball and girls volleyball would be taking place in the gymnasium over the next eight weeks.
- Chairman Dickhaus then told the members that signs promoting Catholic School Week will be posted soon.

**School Planning Committee Update:** Chairperson Dickhaus reported that the committee has elected to address the necessity for classroom space by converting the computer room into two classrooms. Computers will then be placed on a mobile cart that can be moved to different rooms as needed. This plan to address classroom needs will be far less expensive than other alternatives.

To help long-term planning, the committee is considering hiring an architectural/planning firm to examine the St. Bernadette campus, consider the future needs of the parish, and generate a blueprint for the future.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**Upcoming meeting of the Pastoral Council:  
Wednesday February 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**