

# Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 4, 2017

---

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

**Absent:** Jeff Racic

**Guest:** Bishop Joseph Binzer

-----

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson John Dickhaus.

**Opening Prayer:** Janet Davis offered an earnest prayer asking God to guide the Pastoral Council and asking the Holy Spirit to guide the process of selecting a new pastor.

(Note: Fr. Bill left the meeting at this time to allow members to speak freely to the Bishop.)

**New Pastor Discussion:** Bishop Binzer introduced himself to the members. He informed everyone that he is from Cincinnati and worked as a CPA prior to becoming a priest. One of his duties as Auxiliary Bishop is to serve as Director of Priest Personnel. He and the Priest Personnel Board will make a recommendation to the Archbishop for a new pastor. The reason for his visit is to gain further insight into St. Bernadette parish and learn from the Pastoral Council members what traits and characteristics are important to them in the new pastor. Bishop Binzer distributed a document (Parish Leadership Questionnaire) with five questions to solicit feedback from the members. Every member of the Council had an opportunity to address each question.

*Question 1 – Name three important activities of your parish.* The members mentioned the following:

- Spirituality
- School
- Athletics/Boosters
- Festival (important as a fundraiser but also important as a community outreach)
- Mass
- Lay faith formation
- Prayerfulness
- Youth program

*Question 2 – Name three characteristics of your parish that you are proud of.* Members told the Bishop:

- Family atmosphere
- Small church type community
- Not a one-person show
- Each ministry strives to help the others
- Welcoming parish

The Bishop inquired as the growth of the area. The members informed him that more homes are being built in the area and a new, huge high school is to open soon. Fortunately, our parish is not land locked. St. Bernadette has lots of green space which is a great feature to have.

Bishop Binzer then asked about the condition of the parish's physical facilities. The members informed him that the facilities are in better shape now and the parish is being more pro-active in maintenance. The Master Plan project was also brought to his attention.

*Question 3 – What are three greatest challenges for your parish's future?* The following challenges were presented to the Bishop:

- Addressing growth – need more space for school
- Implementing the Master Plan
- Finance – continue raising funds to address growth
- Getting more parishioners to mass regularly

*Question 4 – Name two qualities which you expect to find in your new pastor.* The members first extolled the inspiring attributes of Fr. Bill then proceeded to tell the Bishop that the new pastor should:

- Be young enough to lead with enthusiasm yet old enough to lead with wisdom
- Have good organizational skills and perhaps some business knowledge
- Delegate authority to others
- Possess the ability to relate the mass readings to the parishioners
- Lead our parish on earth as he leads us to heaven
- Have a good sense of humor
- Relate to youth

Several Council members gave the Bishop a handout with written comments including one submitted by Jeff Racic who was unable to attend the meeting in person.

*Question 5 – Describe how your parish supports your pastor. Please include how you see members of the parish express their appreciation to him.* The members told the Bishop the following:

- Father Bill bobblehead
- A couple of parishioners cook for him
- Annual school children gift
- Groups pray for him
- No one turns down a request to volunteer if he (Fr. Bill) asks

Bishop Binzer thanked everyone for their input and their service to the Church. This segment of the meeting was closed by reciting the “Hail Mary”. (Note: Bishop Binzer left the meeting at this time.)

**Pastoral Region Planning Meeting:** Chairperson Dickhaus reminded the members of the meeting on January 23. This will be a joint meeting with the Pastoral Councils of both St. Bernadette and St. Thomas More along with Bishop Binzer and Fr. Schmidt. The meeting will discuss the formation of the Pastoral Region.

(Note: Fr. Bill returned to the meeting at this point.)

**Minutes:** The minutes from the December 5, 2016 Pastoral Council and Stievenard meetings were approved.

**Pastor’s Corner:** Fr. Bill. did not have any items to present to Council.

**Parish Voice/New Business:** Sarah Holland mentioned the upcoming Mardi Gras event to be held on February 25.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

<p><b>Next Meeting</b>  <b>Wednesday February 1, 2017</b></p>
---

Approved: February 1, 2017