

# Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday July 2, 2014

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**In Attendance:** Bev Barnes (Chairperson), Sarah Holland, Rev. Bill Stockelman, Donna Cox, John Dickhaus, Angie Tucker, Laura Brausch, Paul Justice, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

**Absent:** None

**Guest:** None

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**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairperson Barnes.

**Faith Formation:** Sarah Holland opened the meeting with a prayer asking that the Lord grant all the courage to accept Him and live according to His word. The prayer was followed by a reading from Romans 8:9, 11-13. It reminds the reader that those who live by the flesh will die but those who live by the Spirit shall live. The Council Members prayerfully reflected upon the words of that epistle and how each Member calls upon the Holy Spirit when faced with difficulties of the world.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the May 7, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted.

**Election Assignments:** Chairperson Barnes reviewed the schedule for this year's election of Pastoral Council Members. Members volunteered to perform specific tasks related to the process.

**Parish Picnic:** After a brief overview of the parish picnic by Chairperson Barnes, the Members selected September 7<sup>th</sup> for the date. The event will start at 4:00 PM. Donna Cox and Laura Brausch will serve as leaders of the picnic. Angie Tucker will oversee the games for children.

**Capital Campaign for 2015:** Father Bill announced an upcoming capital campaign for the entire archdiocese. This will be first such drive since 1960. The goal will be \$130M for the archdiocese. Of that amount:

- 20% will be retained by the parish (If the parish reaches its goal, 60% of the additional funds will be retained by the parish.)
- 50% will be used by the archdiocese for tuition assistance for children in Catholic schools
- 10% will be dedicated to help the priest retirement fund
- 10% will be used by local Catholic social service agencies
- About 10% will be used to support seminaries (building renovation and tuition assistance)

**School Report:** Fr. Bill informed the Members that:

- The number of students anticipated for the upcoming school year is now at 191, compared to 185 this past year
- A second 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher has been hired and an offer has been tendered for another teacher
- Security upgrades (doors with card access and video/audio system) will soon be installed

**Importance of Planning (Next Steps):** Laura Brausch presented an overview of Chapter 3 (Change and Transformation) of “The Art of Change”. Some of the main ideas were:

- Conflict is inevitable but it can be managed even if the problem isn’t solved
- All people have value and worth so their contribution is important
- Resistance is a sign that something important is going on and it provides an opportunity to consider new possibilities

During the discussion, Fr. Bill confirmed that his retirement date is July 1, 2017. After that date, St. Bernadette parish will collaborate with St. Thomas More Church for multiple matters.

**St. Bernadette Vision (3yrs/5yrs):** Fr. Bill reminded the Members that the role of the Pastoral Council is to help the parish go to where it should be going and to allocate the resources necessary to get there – but how do we get to be a really good parish? With 100 pastors to soon serve 220 parishes in the archdiocese, the future is uncertain. What is certain, however, is that the “old ways” of thinking are not working. We cannot assume that Catholics are being touched by the Church. We cannot assume that sacramentalized Catholics are evangelizing.

Fr. Bill provided a handout (Spiritual Growth Thresholds) to the Members showing how one moves from a “me focus” to a “God focus”. The handout showed different phases of this movement (Possibility → Curiosity → Openness → Quest → Disciple → Missionary/Disciple). Fr. Bill concluded by stating that a good parish moves people from “me” to God.

**Festival Update:** John Dickhaus gave the Members a summary of the changes for the upcoming festival. The changes include moving the book sale into the gym; providing two duck games, one with a live duck performing bodily functions; adding a second funnel cake location; and creating a central station for condiments.

**Pastor’s Corner:** Father Bill informed the Members of the following:

- According to preliminary numbers reflecting the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, the parish finished the year with a balanced budget. The projected budget for the current fiscal year shows a deficit of \$50,000.
- There will be no parish campout this year.

**Parish Voice:** John Dickhaus informed the Members of an opportunity to generate funds (\$8,000) for the parish by getting 12 volunteers to work 12 baseball games as members of the concessionaire staff.

**Closing Prayer:** A closing prayer was offered by Sarah Holland. She asked for the Lord’s help in accepting the path we are to follow.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

**Please note: The Council will next meet on Wednesday July 30. A Stievenard session will commence at 6:00 PM with the Pastoral Council meeting starting at 6:30 PM.**

Approved 7/30/2014