

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Monday March 16, 2015

In Attendance: Angie Tucker (Chairperson), Sarah Holland, Rev. Bill Stockelman, Donna Cox, John Dickhaus, Janet Davis, Brian Baurichter, Laura Brausch, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

Absent: none

Guest: Kathy Mosbaugh, Welcome Committee

Note: The meeting scheduled for February 16 was cancelled due to weather conditions. Agenda items for February 16th were carried over to this meeting.

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

Opening Prayer: Father Bill opened with a prayer by Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman. The prayer asked Jesus to flood our souls with His light so that we may serve as a light to others.

Faith Formation: Father Bill read a section from "The Joy of The Gospel" by Pope Francis. The reading proclaimed that the Church was not a tollhouse but a house for all and that the doors of the Church must be opened for everyone. The Pope wrote that the Church should not get caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures. The Council members reflected upon the Pope's words and how they may apply to St. Bernadette being a welcoming Catholic community. A suggestion was made to replace a sign in front of the Church directing visitors to the chapel when the doors of the Church are closed.

Minutes: The minutes from the January 7, 2015 meeting were approved with one change.

Pastoral Council Constitution: Chairperson Tucker reviewed suggested changes to the proposed Pastoral Council Constitution that were made by parishioners. Council members discussed the suggested changes and contributed some additional edits to the document. The Pastoral Council accepted the changes. The revised Constitution will be presented for formal approval at the April meeting.

Capital Campaign Update: Fr. Bill updated the Council on the One Faith, One Hope, One Love Capital Campaign. He said the campaign is about half completed with St. Bernadette having achieved 55% of its \$580,000 goal to date. The campaign is scheduled to end on May 16th. Fr Bill thanked those who are assisting with the campaign.

Planning for Parish Transition: John Dickhaus informed the group what he had learned from talking to Fr. Len Wenke and some of the people involved with the collaborative transition that took place between at St. Aloysius and St. Jude parishes. The transition is an 18 month process that begins with the assignment of an experienced facilitator by the Archdiocese and the formation of a Pastoral Regional Coordinating Committee (PRCC). The facilitator knows the steps that must be taken and works with the PRCC to keep their work on schedule. Each parish has its own PRCC that is comprised of representatives of key organizations (Pastoral Council, Finance, Worship, etc.). Except for the Pastor, parish staff members are not usually part of the PRCC. The PRCC from each parish will meet to coordinate their activities.

Laura Brausch spoke to representatives from St. Bartholomew and St. Vivian parishes who are experiencing a transition to a collaborative region at this time. Her report indicated that the parishes have had discussions but are waiting until the collaborative region commences on July 1 to work out their issues.

Sarah Holland and Father Bill reminded the members that there had been some preliminary discussions with St. Thomas More several years ago and that it was important to remember that each parish maintains its own identity with a collaborative region.

The Pastoral Council members agreed to begin this 18 month journey after the festival this summer.

Presentation From Kathy Mosbaugh, Welcome Committee: Kathy Mosbaugh met with the Council to inform them of the work of the Welcome Committee she chairs. The group is currently comprised of herself and three other parishioners. When the Committee started around 2007, members of the group met with new parishioners at their homes. That home visit concept was replaced by a monthly brunch around 2010. The work of the Welcome Committee was then combined with the Hospitality Committee in 2013 but the infrequency of the combined gatherings was not successful so the monthly (2nd Sunday of the month) brunch meetings were reinstated.

The Council asked what they could do to help the ministry of the Welcome Committee. Ms. Mosbaugh indicated that more members, even food preparation helpers would be useful. Council members supported the idea of attending upcoming events sponsored by the Welcome Committee.

Council members also briefly discussed the concept of a Ministry Fair to allow more parishioners to learn about the many organizations in the parish.

Pastor's Corner: Fr. Bill announced that:

- "The Light Is On For You" penitential event had fewer participants this year. The decline was attributed to the harsh wintry conditions that evening.
- The Christ Renew His Parish program is very successful and is now being run by previous participants of the program.

Parish Voice:

- Chairperson Tucker asked about a tree issue near the pre-school. John Dickhaus agreed to look into the matter.
- She also asked about the success of the recent Mardi Gras event. Sarah Holland informed her that the event raised about \$3,500.
- As a follow-up to the January meeting, Donna Cox asked about the use of temporary signs to designate parking spaces close to the Church for those with mobility challenges.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Bill read the prayer used with the Living the Eucharist program. The prayer thanks God for His rich blessing and asks that we prosper with our hands.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is April 20, 2015 at 7:00 PM. It will be followed by a meeting of the Stievenard Committee.