

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 9, 2016

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

Absent: Paul Justice

Guest: None

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

Faith Formation: Janet Davis read from Jn 8: 1-11. In this narrative, Jesus was asked how to comply with the law concerning an adulterer. Jesus's response was to tell the assembly that the person without sin should cast the first stone. Everyone left leaving just Jesus and the woman. Jesus then demonstrated mercy by telling the woman to go and sin no more.

The members of the Council reflected upon the reading and discussed the theme of mercy and compassion. They had different insights into mercy. According to many members, it is a difficult term that is not easy to define. Compassion for another is often thought of as a human trait while mercy is more divine. Mercy is God showing His goodness. Mercy comes from whom I am, not who they are. Mercy includes many things. Most people it seems, however, do not expect mercy. They are more likely to experience compassion. It is mercy, however, that they need. Mercy is something that one can show.

Minutes: The minutes from the February 3, 2016 meeting were approved.

Update on Proposed Parish Survey: At the January and February meetings, there were discussions about steps that could be taken to be a more welcoming parish. One idea was to seek input from parishioners using a brief questionnaire. It was discovered, however, that the Spirituality Committee was planning on issuing a more extensive survey later this year. That Committee has agreed to include the two questions of the Pastoral Council. So as not to conflict with their effort, the Council decided to cancel its survey.

School Master Plan Update: Chairperson Dickhaus informed the members that the enrollment (K-8) for the 2016-2017 school year is 202. About 9 more students are expected. Each (K-4) class will have 2 rooms while each (5-8) class will have 1 room. The plan to convert the existing computer room into a classroom for next year is continuing.

A recent examination of the electrical and mechanical systems of the school complex revealed the need for some upgrades. Estimates for electrical upgrades are being sought with the intention of commencing work after the current school year ends.

The draft RFP document to seek a master plan for the parish campus is nearly complete. A decision on steps to address the anticipated enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year must be made by January, 2017. Fr. Bill requested that the members receive a copy of the RFP document at the next meeting.

The members continued a discussion of potential steps to address the anticipated enrollment increase. They also were reminded of some of the variables (new Pastor, new public school, tuition at another nearby parochial school, etc.) that could impact any such discussion.

New Parish App: Chairman Dickhaus announced that the new parish app is currently available. Several members had installed the app on their phones and indicated that it provided useful information. There was a concern, however, that keeping the information current could be a challenge.

Pastor's Corner: Fr. Bill:

- Asked for input from the members about a fee charged to families when someone uses the facilities of our parish for a funeral. The current fee is \$250 and it is charged by the funeral home and then passed to the parish. Should that fee be eliminated? The parish does not charge for other services. The members were divided on the issue. It is a customary fee and is not excessive considering the cost of a funeral. There are some costs, primarily utilities, associated with a funeral service but usually the cost is less than the fee. Fr. Bill informed the members that with 18 funerals a year, the parish receives \$4,500 annually. Some members indicated that any revenue is useful to the parish and were hesitant about discontinuing the fee. Fr. Bill is to conduct some informal research to determine what other churches in the area charge for funerals.
- Informed the members that this Easter, there will be 4 adults and 7 children baptized. Six other adults will be confirmed.
- Said that the Archdiocese is conducting a sport ministry conference beginning March 30. It is part of an effort to merge organized youth sports into the Catholic life. A representative of the Vatican will be present.
- Expressed a concern about being a welcoming parish. He recently saw Chairman Dickhaus interacting with attendees of a fish fry in the parking lot. He did not see, however, interaction within the cafeteria. He indicated that 63 households registered each year. They are given some printed material about the parish, a set of envelopes, and an invitation to the next wine and cheese social. Father's concern is what happens afterwards. Members lamented the fact that more consistent communication is needed but that such effort requires personnel.

Parish Voice: There were no items brought before the Council.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**Upcoming meeting of the Pastoral Council
Wednesday April 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

Minutes approved on April 6, 2016.