

# Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 4, 2016

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

**Absent:** Laura Brausch, Paul Justice

**Guest:** None

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**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairperson John Dickhaus.

**Faith Formation:** Fr. Bill opened with a prayer asking for blessings upon the parish and for healing. His prayer also asked for guidance for the Pastoral Council.

Fr. Bill provided an official summary of Chapter 2 of the Pope's new Apostolic Exhortation, "The Joy of Love". This chapter focuses on the family. Families face many challenges (abuse, sexual identity issues, violence against women, anti-birth mentality, etc.) We must use concrete realism to determine the difference between acceptable theories of reality and arbitrary ideologies. Rampant individuality can limit one's ability to give to another. In addition, idealism can inhibit the personal development and fulfillment that exists in marriage. Families must be open to grace.

The members reflected upon the document. Some mentioned personal situations related to family circumstances. They also conversed about reality itself and different realities for different people.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the April 6, 2016 meeting were approved.

**Wedding and Funeral Fees Follow Up:** Chairman Dickhaus and Fr. Bill provided a summary of the previous discussions regarding fees for funerals and weddings. The number of weddings annually is about four. Currently, the parish imposes no fee for weddings but other nearby parishes do charge a fee. It has been Fr. Bill's position that a wedding is a sacrament and no fee should be imposed for receiving a sacrament. A donation to the parish, however, is sometimes made. Pastoral Council voted unanimously to support the current fee policy for weddings.

For a church funeral, the parish receives \$250. A fee of \$150 is collected for services conducted at a funeral home. Funerals generate about \$4,000 annually. After discussion, the Council voted to continue the same fee structure but allow Fr. Bill the option to waive that fee.

**School Update:** Chairman Dickhaus reported that 222 students are enrolled for next academic year (K-8). This number is unlikely to change much. At one time, enrollment was 134. Pre-school registration is down, however, at this time.

**Electric Update:** Chairman Dickhaus reported that contact has been made with Duke Energy, Cincinnati Bell, and an electrical engineer. Plans are now being developed to make the electric service to the school more efficient and safe. The work is estimated to cost \$20,000-\$22,000. Bids will soon be accepted to perform the work. The project will hopefully be done after the end of school but before the start of vacation bible school.

**Financial Update:** Mark Armstrong is tentatively scheduled to present an update on the parish budget at the next meeting. There is a potential that the parish may realize a deficit this fiscal year.

**School Planning Update:** Chairman Dickhaus informed the Council that the RFP for the school planning project is still being developed by Liz Ingram. The Council will be able to review that document prior to its release for bids. The project will examine current and future conditions and determine options for school facility development. The information then can be used by the Council to better plan for the future.

**School Roofing Update:** According to Chairperson Dickhaus, the school's roof has not deteriorated as quickly as expected. This will allow the roof replacement to be delayed another year provided no unusually severe weather conditions adversely impact the roof. As a result, any fundraising effort is not necessary at this time.

**Pastor's Corner:** Fr. Bill asked the members to pray for a parish member who is awaiting a kidney transplant.

**Parish Voice/New Business:** Chairman Dickhaus reported that the Boosters are in the process of making improvements to the gym.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

**Upcoming meeting of the Pastoral Council**  
**Wednesday June 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**(The meeting for June 1 has been moved due to graduation ceremonies at the school)**

Approved: June 8, 2016