

# Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 5, 2014

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**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:** none

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

**Opening Prayer/Faith Formation:** Laura Brausch began the meeting with a prayer asking God to be present at the meeting to provide guidance.

The prayer was followed by a reading the Gospel according to John 2: 13-22. These verses relate the account of Jesus driving merchants out of the temple. The members reflected upon the reading. To some, the reading shows the human side of Jesus. He was upset at the lack of respect by the merchants. Likewise, we may need to throw out those unholy things that disrespect God. Members also discussed if this gospel precludes certain activities that take place in the Gathering Space at church. The members concluded that as long as such activities are not disrespectful, they are not contrary to the gospel message.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the October 1, 2014 meeting were approved.

**New Members/Role of Pastoral Council:** Chairperson Tucker formally introduced the new members of the Pastoral Council – Janet Davis and Brian Baurichter.

Chairperson Tucker then began a discussion of the role of the Pastoral Council. The discussion began with the introduction of the revised Constitution of the Pastoral Council. Several members offered minor changes to the document and the draft document was approved by the Council for submittal to the members of the parish for comments. The revised Constitution will be available on the parish website and open for comments for 30 days. The Pastoral Council will then consider the input of the parish members prior to final approval.

The new members of the Council then received a brief overview and status of the Stievenard and Ventura (unwed mothers) funds. Council members requested a listing of non-parish organizations that have benefited from the Stievenard fund.

Father Bill expanded upon the role of the Pastoral Council. He indicated that the goal of the Pastoral Council is to be a good catholic parish. The Council is not established to “do” everything but to plan, evaluate, communicate, allocate resources, etc. It advises the pastor and the pastor consults with the Council. In short, the Pastoral Council determines the type of parish we want to be and its members should make a difference.

Father Bill continued by stating that members of the Pastoral Council should educate themselves more about the Church. One recommendation he made was reading the *Joy of the Gospel* by Pope Francis. Father then remarked that the new members of the Pastoral Council will still be on Council when the parish welcomes its new pastor in July, 2017.

The mission statement of the parish was read by Father Bill and he expanded upon each word in the statement. Janet Davis suggested that each Committee of the parish receive a copy of the mission statement document.

Donna Cox presented her assessment of the work effort of the Council in light of the revised Constitution. The other members expressed the need to be more active in the planning for the future of St. Bernadette. The revised Constitution is a first step in that process. A Committee may be the next step.

Father Bill remarked that the Pastoral Council must look for ways to help people form a meaningful relationship with Christ. The Council must use the social and spiritual aspects of the parish to keep the feel of community that exists.

John Dickhaus stated that there are limits to what this Council can do. Many people stay away from the Church because of policies created by those far above this parish. Pastoral Council cannot change the Church's policies. The members then discussed ways to promote the attendance at St. Bernadette within the scope of their ability.

**Invitation to Groups/Committees:** Chairperson Tucker informed the members that she is in the process of contacting several parish organizations to meet with the Council in the coming months. Organizations to include St. Vincent DePaul, PTO, and Welcome Committee. Members also expressed interest in inviting a representative of the Finance Committee and Boosters as well as the Business Manager.

**School Report:** Fr. Bill informed the members that the school is doing fine. It is currently conducting parent-teacher conferences and recently held a book fair.

**Pastor's Corner:** Fr. Bill announced:

- He is working on selecting leaders for the upcoming capital fund drive that will begin in January and end in May.
- To celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the new church, there will be hospitality after each mass on the weekend of November 29-30. This will include tours of the campus.
- The roof above the cafeteria needs some major work. Bids were received and the Council approved the bid submitted by Dalton Roofing.

**Parish Voice:** Donna Cox inquired about the alleged policy of St. Vincent DePaul Society accepting only volunteers who are retired. Fr. Bill responded that such is not their policy.

**Closing Prayer:** Laura Brausch offered a prayer on behalf of the members.

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

**Please note: The Council will next meet on Wednesday December 3, 2014.**

Minutes approved on December 3, 2014.