

# Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 4, 2015

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

**Absent:**

**Guest:** none

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**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m. by Chairperson Dickhaus.

**Faith Formation:** Laura Brausch read from 1 Kings:10-16. This reading tells how Elijah asked a widow who was gathering sticks for a drink of water and a crust of bread. The woman had no bread and very little flour but she did as Elijah asked on faith for he told her God would provide all the flour and oil she would need for a long time.

The members reflected upon the faith and mercy shown by the widow. Several examples were mentioned. They spoke of the how the recent capital campaign revealed a strong faith within the parish but they acknowledged that the level of faith demonstrated by the widow in the reading is not developed overnight. Also, showing mercy to others is easier if mercy has been shown to oneself. Demonstrating mercy begins with each person.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the October 7, 2015 meeting were approved.

**New Members:** Patty Pryor and Paul Justice were welcomed as the new members of the Pastoral Council.

**Role of the Pastoral Council:** Each member received a copy of the document: "The Role of the Parish Pastoral Council in the Implementation of a Pastoral Region". Fr. Bill read from that document selecting several sections to point out the role of both the pastor and the council members. The pastor is to make use of the wisdom of the council and council members serve as consultants to the pastor. The goal is to ensure St. Bernadette parish is the parish God wants us to be.

The discussion that followed indicated a desire to review and possibly update the current Parish Plan. Fr. Bill will have a copy sent to each member for their use.

**Pastoral Region Update/Discussion:** Fr. Bill told the members that he had a meeting this week with Bishop Binzer, Fr. Wenke (Director of Pastoral Services), and Fr. Wagner (Pastor of St. Thomas More parish). They discussed the timetable for the Pastoral Region. More details are expected by next summer. Meanwhile, the Pastoral Council will continue to prepare for the Pastoral Region.

**Pastor's Corner:** Fr. Bill updated the members on plans for the Year of Mercy. Preliminary plans call for four areas of focus (the forgotten, qualifications for receiving sacraments, reaching out to those within the parish who feel alienated, reaching out to those outside of the parish). The planning group will have more details soon.

**Parish Voice:**

- Chairperson Dickhaus reminded the members of the wine social scheduled for November 14.
- Fr Bill and Janet Davis told of their recent mission trip to Mississippi. There, they painted houses and installed fencing to assist some of the residents there. The mission trip aided the work of the Sacred Heart Fathers who provide more than just hand-outs.
- Donna Cox asked about a post-Alpha course. Other members indicated that such a course would be offered after advent.
- Brian Baurichter asked about the parish Finance Committee. He was told that they work with the Business Manager, prepare the annual budget, and provide financial oversight. Members are listed in the bulletin.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

A meeting of the Stievenard Committee was conducted after the conclusion of the Pastoral Council meeting.

**Upcoming meeting of the Pastoral Council:  
Wednesday December 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**

Approved: December 4, 2015