

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 9, 2016

In Attendance: John Dickhaus (Chairperson), Brian Baurichter, Janet Davis, Sarah Holland, Paul Justice, Patty Pryor, Jeff Racic, Rev. Bill Stockelman, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

Absent: None

Guest: None

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

Faith Formation: Patty Pryor opened with a prayer asking God to bless all present and to provide guidance to the new members of Council. The prayer also sought healing for our nation and for our City.

She then read Romans 12: 2-8. This passage encourages people to “be transformed by the renewal of your mind so that you may discern the will of God”. Then, realize that we are one body with many parts and to use our gifts accordingly to support that one body.

The members then discussed how this reading applied to the parish. Patty Pryor began by mentioning that every member of our parish has something to contribute. Sarah Holland noted that everyone has different strengths and weaknesses and that we should use our strengths and work on our weaknesses. In other words, parishioners need to get out of their comfort zone. Janet Davis reminded all that there is good in everyone. After Brian Baurichter inquired about the best way to draw those people into the Church, the members mentioned that it is important to persevere in our efforts and, eventually, some level of awareness may happen. Jeff Racic said that everyone has a story and while it is easy to tell our story, it is more difficult to listen to another’s story. Fr. Bill echoed the words of Pope Francis saying that we need to “encounter” others.

Minutes: The minutes from the October 5, 2016 Pastoral Council were approved.

New Member Welcome: Chairperson Dickhaus welcomed the new members to Pastoral Council and provided a handout of “helpful hints” to all members of Council.

Fr. Bill informed the members that the purpose of the Council is to help us be a good parish by staying focused on its mission. The Council discusses items that concern the parish and Fr. Bill. Council serves as a conduit for truth between Fr. Bill and members of the parish as well as a listening post for Fr. Bill, informing him of concerns of parishioners.

Fr. Bill also mentioned a few guidelines for Faith Formation. It should be based upon an authoritative document such as the Bible, catechism, encyclical, statement from the Pope or Bishop, etc.

Welcoming Committee: Sarah Holland proposed a plan to match new members of the parish with volunteer support families. The idea is to take positive steps to make new members feel more welcomed. The support families would make personal efforts such as phone calls to reach out to the new members with information and encouragement. Jeff Racic mentioned about coordinating with Greeters at masses and about the fact that 230 new homes are being built nearby in Amelia Park. An upcoming bulletin will provide information to parishioners about the program.

That discussion evolved into a “help desk” concept for the Gathering Space during Advent and Christmas. The desk would be staffed with a person(s) who would provide assistance and information to new and existing members of the parish.

Church-School Engagement: Chairperson Dickhaus asked how the church and the school could better support one another. Fr. Bill mentioned that everything we do in the parish is an opportunity to evangelize. Some of the ideas discussed were:

- Having Liz Ingram (School Principal) occasionally talk to parishioners at mass
- Passing out flyers during the holiday basketball tournament
- Providing updates of school activities in the bulletin every six months
- Employing school kids to assist in staffing the proposed help desk
- Asking school (including PRP) children to speak at some masses
- Scheduling the school choir to sing at selected masses

Campus Master Plan: Chairman Dickhaus updated the members about the ongoing master plan development. He told the members that the consulting firm has met with ten groups from the parish and has compiled a list of our “wants”. They are now applying those “wants” into some plan that will be presented in the future. A Town Hall meeting is anticipated in early 2017. Chairperson Dickhaus mentioned the need for improved communication about the master plan development. Pastoral Council will be given another update during its December meeting.

Pastor’s Corner: No items to report.

Parish Voice/New Business: Chairperson Dickhaus passed out a sign-up sheet for Faith Formation assignments for the coming year.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">Upcoming meeting of the Pastoral Council Tuesday December 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday January 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.</p>

Approved: December 6, 2016