

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 8, 2017

In Attendance: John Dickhaus (Chairperson), Christina Boss, Sarah Holland, Paul Justice, John Kelly, Patty Pryor, Rev. Tim Ralston, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

Absent: Jeff Racic

Guest:

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson John Dickhaus.

New Member Welcome: Chairperson Dickhaus introduced the two newly-elected members of Pastoral Council: Christina Boss and John Kelly. The Chairperson provided them a handout outlining his preferred meeting protocols.

Faith Formation/Opening Prayer: Patty Pryor offered a prayer asking God's blessing on the meeting and His help in being good stewards on behalf of the parish. She then read from the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter 14, verses 25-33. This passage tells of the time when Jesus told those following Him what they need to do ("carry his own cross" and "renounce all his possessions") before being His disciple.

Patty told the members that she selected this reading since she was uncertain of the message Jesus was telling the crowd. Fr. Tim indicated that Jesus was saying that they must love God above all other persons and things. John Kelly told of those recent flood victims who realized what was really important in their lives after losing their possessions. Christina Boss commented that what Jesus asks often drives people away from Him.

After the discussion, Chairperson Dickhaus sought volunteers for Faith Formation for the 2018 meetings.

Minutes: The minutes from the October 11, 2017 Pastoral Council meeting were approved.

Role of Parish Council: Fr. Tim distributed two sets of handouts. The first handout defined the role of the Pastoral Council. According to this Archdiocesan document, the Pastoral Council "has the task of advising the pastor on important matters of pastoral activity". The second handout (Temporal Affairs) outlined the role of the Finance Committee and its relationship with the Pastoral Council. It states that the Finance Committee serves the Pastoral Council and the pastor.

Council members briefly reviewed documents and were encouraged to review them. Fr. Tim offered to discuss them at future meetings.

Update: Youth Ministry: Fr. Tim informed the members of two initiatives to provide outreach to young members of the parish. One current program utilizes the efforts of two parishioners to work with youth. A potential program is being considered for next year. This new Archdiocesan-based program assigns two trained youth ministers to the parish to run a program. The leaders are committed for two years to the parish. The parish would supply some financial support along with meeting facilities.

The members discussed the merits of the programs. Sarah Holland inquired about any effort to work with the parents of the youth to get them involved.

Finance Report Follow-up: Chairperson Dickhaus reported that the parish received \$8,100 (last fiscal year and \$6,900 (previous fiscal year) for the sale of scripts and Kroger Community Fund. It appears that one must annually renew their Kroger Community Fund designation. Sarah Holland to prepare instructions for renewal to be printed in the bulletin and web site.

Announcements: Chairperson Dickhaus informed the members of the following parish activities:

- SVDP Food Collection drive is this coming weekend. Help may be needed to carry the bags of groceries from Church to the Parish Office after mass.
- Holiday Craft Show will be on Saturday, November 18th in the gym from 9a-3p. The event will occur at the same time as the craft show at St. Thomas More. A joint drawing may be conducted for those attending both events.
- The 8th grade will sponsor a Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, November 19th in the gym from 5p-7p. Proceeds will be used to help offset the cost of their planned trip to Washington D.C. next year.
- Two parishioners have agreed to update the parish web site. The announcement initiated a discussion about the parish app. Sarah Holland noted that, by not using the app, there are a lot of missed opportunities to communicate pertinent information to the parishioners. Chairperson Dickhaus will inquire about updating the app as well as the web site.
- Fr. Tim told the members that masses for December 24 and 25 will be:

For Sunday (December 24)	5:00 PM (Saturday December 23) 9:00 AM 11:00 AM
For Christmas (December 25)	5:00 PM (Sunday December 24) 12:00 midnight 10:00 AM

New Business:

In light of recent tragedies with churches, Paul Justice asked about the parish policy concerning those who have a concealed carry permit bringing guns into Church. Fr. Tim replied that he did not intend to change the existing policy that permitted such activity.

Sarah Holland inquired about the October census count. Fr. Tim did not have all of the data with him, but he reported that the numbers had remained about the same; an average of 554 at mass each weekend this October compared with 545 last October.

Pastor's Corner:

Fr Tim announced that the pastor for St. Mary's and St. Peter's suddenly retired. A new pastor is anticipated in January. He also informed the members of a working understanding with that Pastoral Region to provide mutual cooperation.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday December 6, 2017

Approved: December 6, 2017