

# Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 1, 2014

---

**In Attendance:** Angie Tucker (Chairperson), Sarah Holland, Rev. Bill Stockelman, Donna Cox, John Dickhaus, Paul Justice, Laura Brausch, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

**Absent:** Bev Barnes

**Guest:** Liz Ingram

---

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Tucker. She then recited a prayer asking that God bestow open-mindedness and guidance to the approaching changes.

**Faith Formation:** Chairperson Tucker read the parable of the landowner who planted a vineyard and leased it to some tenants (Matthew 21: 33-43). At harvest time, the tenants not only killed the landowner's servants who had come to collect the produce, but also murdered the landowner's son. The crowd listening to Jesus responded that the landowner should put those responsible to death and allow others to tend to the vineyard. Jesus said likewise, the kingdom of God will be taken away from those not worthy and given to people who will produce fruit.

The members reflected upon the reading and its application to the Parish. They indicated that God is the owner of the parish and there are a lot of good organizations within the Parish that ensure good fruit is produce on behalf of the owner.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the September 3, 2014 meeting were approved as revised.

**Election Update:** Chairperson Tucker reported that there will be 12 candidates running for the two vacancies and that the ballots for the elections had been printed. Members agreed upon masses during which they will distribute and collect the ballots. Voting will also be permitted after each mass. Those elected to the Council will be installed at a mass later in October.

**School Report:** Liz Ingram distributed several handouts. The first handout noted the number of students in each grade (K-8) and the number enrolled in the preschool program. There are 193 students (K-8) and 35 in the preschool. The second handout provided data regarding the religious affiliation of the students. This handout also listed a series of initiatives (PTO, new security measures, greater use of technology, etc.) that have been implemented to enhance the vitality of the school and the parish. The third handout was a copy of the School Pledge, a modest but important document in the overall development of children. Ms. Ingram also inquired about the availability of data related to the number of school-age children of parishioners who do not attend the school.

**Importance of Planning (Next Steps):** Sarah Holland presented an overview of Chapter 5 of "The Art of Change". In her handout, Ms. Holland reported that the future results of any successful planning process must focus on the present. She also noted the difference between a goal (unchangeable stepping stone that leads to a vision) and a vision (achievement of multiple goals).

The handout listed several sample goals but the one that was highlighted was the need to strengthen the collaboration, communication, and cooperation among all leaders throughout the parish.

Action plans need to be SMART (**S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**esponsibilities identified, **T**ime-bound). The book presents three approaches to visioning:

1. Last Five Years (determine why have the past five years have been good and where could we be five years from now)
2. Magic Carpet Ride (consider strengths and weaknesses of the past, present and future)
3. Scenario Planning (look at possible futures, probable futures, and preferred future)

The presentation concluded by listing the four key stages of the planning process (directional planning, strategic planning, operational planning, and administrative planning).

Following the presentation, the members discussed how this chapter applies to St. Bernadette. The members agreed that there is benefit in knowing what other are doing in the parish. The members discussed scheduling representatives of parish organizations to meet with the Council.

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

- The Archbishop is seeking new leadership for the Virtus program
- St. Bernadette made a donation from a special fund to an organization that assists unwed mothers
- The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary photo directories have arrived for distribution
- The Christ Renews His Parish program is continuing. A women's group recently completed the program and a men's group is to commence this month.
- The mission trip to Juarez, Mexico has been canceled this year

Fr. Bill then read what the parish mission statement meant to him and asked the members to reflect upon its meaning to them. Does it reflect the kind of parish people want to belong to? Is a new mission statement needed? Members agreed to consider the current mission statement and return next month with their thoughts on the document.

**Parish Voice:** Chairperson Tucker assigned upcoming Faith Formation presentations and Art of Change chapters to members.

Sarah Holland updated the group on the proposal to create a "Helping Hand" group for the parish.

John Dickhaus asked about the groups the Council would like to meet with in the future.

Chairperson Tucker, on behalf of the entire Pastoral Council, thanked Paul Justice for his service to the Council.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:36PM.

**Please note: The Council will next meet on Wednesday November 5, 2014.**

APPROVED: November 5, 2014