

# Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 7, 2015

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**In Attendance:** Angie Tucker (Chairperson), Sarah Holland, Rev. Bill Stockelman, John Dickhaus, Donna Cox, Janet Davis, Brian Baurichter, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

**Absent:** Laura Brausch

**Guest:** none

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

**Faith Formation:** Sarah Holland opened with a prayer asking the Lord to help us see the value of wisdom over possessions and opening our hearts to use that knowledge to bring others to Him. She then read from the Book of Wisdom, Chapter 7, verses 7-11. The reading extols the value of wisdom over “scepter and throne”, gold, silver, and gems. It concludes by saying that “all good things come together to me in her company”.

The members reflected upon the reading and thought about how often they pray for wisdom instead of asking for the answer and how the parish could benefit if everyone prayed for wisdom more often. They said that knowledge is the key and wisdom provides knowledge. It was pointed out that some uneducated people are filled with wisdom and some very smart people do not display much wisdom. The Church often associates the Old Testament use of Wisdom to the New Testament use of the Holy Spirit. All agreed that more wisdom is needed.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the September 8, 2015 meeting were approved.

**Quarterly Wine and Cheese Welcome Social:** Chairperson Tucker passed around a sign-up form for the upcoming quarterly welcoming social.

**Year of Mercy:** Fr. Bill reminded the members about the Year of Mercy (Dec. 8, 2015 – Nov. 20, 2016). Currently, a planning committee is trying to figure out how we as a parish can be more merciful. Fr. Bill asked what is mercy as opposed to justice? Are we any good at forgiving one another?

Various members began discussing the concept of mercy and how to incorporate it more frequently. Sarah Holland stated that it starts with the individual. By showing mercy in little things it may grow into bigger things. Think about the times you wanted mercy from others. Chairperson Tucker added that sometimes it is hard to forgive. John Dickhaus noted that mercy is an on-going process. The members concluded that being merciful is part of love. Mercy is about people first, then parish.

Fr. Bill expressed an interest in examples of where mercy is needed. He is also looking forward to the ideas of the planning group.

**Pastoral Region Update/Discussion:** Fr. Bill informed the members that he received a call from Fr. Len Wenke, Director of Pastoral Services, about the Pastoral Region. Fr. Bill anticipates a date to be set before the end of the year with representatives of both parishes to discuss the Pastoral Region.

Fr. Bill also presented a list of his duties as part of the preliminary planning phase.

Members presented names of potential members for Pastoral Region Coordinating Committee (PRCC). Members discussed some of the personal attributes that will likely be needed to effectively serve on the committee. They must realize that the future will be different, compromise will be required, but meeting the spiritual needs of both parishes is essential.

Fr. Bill indicated that before any selection is made, the meeting with Fr. Wenke is needed so potential members can be told what will be expected of them if they serve on the PRCC. He will contact Fr. Wenke to set up that meeting.

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

- Told the members that a new classroom may be needed for next year as school enrollment continues to increase. A new restroom-equipped modular classroom is one possible solution. Plans are being evaluated at this time.

**Parish Voice:**

- Chairperson Tucker Informed the members that John Dickhaus agreed to become Chairperson for the next 12 months.
- John Dickhaus announced that the new shelter will be done by next Monday.
- Due to scheduling conflicts, the Mass of installation of the Pastoral Council members originally scheduled for October 11 may be changed. John Dickhaus will coordinate the new date.
- Sarah Holland raised a concern brought to her about the condition of the parking lot behind the gym. John Dickhaus informed the members that it will cost \$60,000 to permanently repair the lot. Temporary repairs will be made as needed.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Note: Following the meeting, a brief reception was held to thank Angie Tucker and Sarah Holland for their service to the entire parish by being a member of the Pastoral Council for the past three years.

**Upcoming meetings of the Pastoral Council:  
Wednesday November 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday December 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**

**The next Stievenard Meeting is November 4, 2015 at 8:30 pm.**

Approved: November 4, 2015