

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 5, 2016

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: None

Guest: None

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson John Dickhaus.

Faith Formation: Paul Justice opened the meeting by praying the "Our Father". All in attendance joined in prayer. He then read an article entitled *Voting and the Ark* which represented the thoughts of a person regarding voting as a Christian. The essay quoted several bible passages to support the author's view that Christians should be responsible citizens and judge a candidate by what he/she says and does in accordance with the word of God.

Paul said he read this article because he hears that a lot of people will not vote this year but one's vote, or lack thereof, can impact our religious freedom. Other members reflected personal opinions regarding the information provided by the media and the elections in general. Brian Baurichter questioned if this current situation is a reflection of our culture. Janet Davis asked if there was anything we as a parish can do. Paul Justice responded that he presented this article so that our vote should reflect the candidate that most closely resembles what we are trying to do as a parish. Fr. Bill mentioned the Archdiocese's "Civilize It" campaign that promotes respect during the election process.

Minutes: The minutes from the September 7, 2016 Pastoral Council and Stievenard meetings were approved.

Pastoral Council Elections: Chairman Dickhaus reviewed the election for Pastoral Council that are scheduled for October 8-9. Members volunteered to distribute and collect ballots. The tabulations and notification process was also reviewed. The installation mass will be at 9:00 AM on October 16.

2016 Fiscal Year: As a follow-up from last month's meeting, Chairman Dickhaus updated members on the Capital Campaign rebate and the deficit.

2017 Fiscal Year: Chairman Dickhaus announced that very early projections show a deficit this fiscal year greater than last year. This announcement began a discussion regarding stewardship, revenue, and mass attendance. Fr. Bill asked for input on addressing stewardship and getting more people involved in the parish. Donna Cox suggested a review of the expenses to discover possible trends. Patty Pryor asked if parishioners really understand the finances. Laura Brausch told the members how some churches have regular bible-based stewardship drives. Other suggestions were sending out letters, placing reminders in the envelope packet, and placing extra envelope in pews.

The discussion then shifted to being a more welcoming parish. How do we get people more involved in the parish? Suggestions include reviewing the information packet given to new parishioners, reviewing the registration form, and determining if greeters could re-focus their attention toward new parishioners.

Pastor's Corner: Fr. Bill did not have any items to report.

Parish Voice/New Business:

- Donna Cox asked about the lack of any mention of the second collection sometimes. Fr. Bill said that the second collection on October 1-2 was an oversight. He also said, however, that more second collections will occur in the future.
- Fr. Bill requested a date change for the next two Pastoral Council meetings. The Council will meet on November 9 and December 6.

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

**Upcoming meetings of the Pastoral Council
Wednesday November 9 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday December 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

Approved: November 10, 2016