

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 11, 2017

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

Absent: Janet Davis, Jeff Racic

Guest: Mark Armstrong, Business Manager

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson John Dickhaus.

Faith Formation/Opening Prayer: Brian Baurichter opened the meeting with prayer invoking God to help us better understand one another. He then distributed a handout that contained a paraphrased excerpt from Father Robert Baron's book entitled "Word on Fire: Proclaiming the Power of Christ". The selected passage reflected upon Heb 11:1 ("Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.") The document states that reasonable people come to God in the same manner that they come to accept other realities: by using their experiences, deductions, arguments, testimonies, and gut instinct.

The members reflected upon the words of faith by Bishop Baron. Sarah Holland commented that just because we can't prove our faith doesn't make it unreal. Who is to say that something is not true just because it cannot be proven. Patty Prior added that it is difficult to accept that so many people could believe something that is not true.

Minutes: The minutes from the September 6, 2017 Pastoral Council meeting were approved with an additional paragraph acknowledging visits by Fr. Tim to the homes of new parishioners.

Finance Report: Mark Armstrong, Business Manager, gave an end-of-fiscal-year financial overview to the members. He reported that Sunday collections had increased over that fiscal year (June 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017). On the income side, the Church generated about \$830,000, most of which came from Sunday collections. The school generated about \$1,100,000. On the expense side, the Church spent about \$500,000 while the school required about \$1,400,000 to operate. Personnel cost (salaries and benefits) continue to be the largest expenditure. Overall, after adjustments, the parish realized a loss of \$10,000 for the fiscal year. This amount represents an improvement from the previous fiscal year.

In response to an inquiry about the Kroger Community Fund, Mr. Armstrong reported that the parish currently receives about \$6,800 yearly. Sarah Holland is to investigate current renewal requirements for participants to ensure continuation of that revenue source.

Ministry Recruitment: A Ministry Fair was scheduled for November 11th. Due to a scheduling conflict that weekend and seasonal events for the remainder of the year, the members elected to move the Ministry Recruitment Weekend to early February during Lent. Dates will be set at a future meeting.

Pastoral Council Elections: Chairperson Dickhaus and the members discussed assignments for the Pastoral Council elections this weekend. Chairperson Dickhaus will call the winners and send an e-mail to those not selected. The installation of the new Council will at the 9:00 a.m. mass on October 22.

Security Update: Chairperson Dickhaus informed the members that, in light of recent events, the ushers will be provided written instructions on handling disruptive individuals in Church.

Festival Update: Chairperson Dickhaus reported that the 2017 parish festival netted \$104,000.

Announcements:

- Chairperson Dickhaus reminded the members of the Halloween Dance on October 21st and the annual Wine Social scheduled for November 4th.
- Sarah Holland reminded the members that “Breakfast with Santa” was canceled last year due to low attendance. She informed the members that there was an effort to have some “Santa” event in December. The parish is looking for someone to lead that effort.
- Fr. Tim announced that the Bethlehem Christian Family will be at Church on October 28th and 29th to sell their Holy Land olive wood articles.

New Business: No new business was brought forth.

Pastor’s Corner: Fr. Tim informed the members that St Bernadette will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2019. That year will also see the 10th anniversary of the new church. An invitation for the Archbishop to celebrate mass on or near the anniversary date is being planned. Other activities will also take place. Now is the best time to think about events for that year.

Thanks: The Council thanked Janet Davis and Brian Baurichter for their service to the Council over the past three years.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting Wednesday November 8, 2017</p>
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Approved: November 8, 2017