

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 8, 2015

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

Absent: John Dickhaus

Guest: none

Note: This meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday September 2, 2015.

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

Faith Formation: Janet Davis read from the book of Deuteronomy (15:7-8, 10-11). The reading declared that you should not harden your heart to those in need but to give generously. In return, God will bless you.

After reflecting upon the reading, the members discussed times when Jesus had opened His heart to tell us what He wanted us to do. The One Faith, One Hope, One Love Campaign was mentioned as an example. Members cited how some people light up with their faith. They cannot sit still but must perform wonderful deeds.

While Jesus was on earth, he sought after sinners and those with shabby clothes. How can we as a parish reach out to those who wear shabby clothes?

Minutes: The minutes from the August 5, 2015 meeting were approved with two edits.

Festival Update: Father Bill informed the members that the recent festival grossed \$205,000, about \$7,000 more than the previous year. Expenses, however, were also greater so the net revenue is expected to be about the same.

Pastoral Region Update/Discussion: Father Bill distributed the Proposed Pastoral Region Plan for St. Bernadette and St. Thomas More that was approved in 2012. That document resulted from a series of meetings between members of the two parishes. Father Bill was recently informed that the proposed plan is not sufficient for the Pastoral Region that will commence in July 2017. A more comprehensive plan must be approved by January 2017 so it can be available when the Archdiocese posts the position for Pastor of the Pastoral Region.

In the near future, a Pastoral Region Coordinating Committee (PRCC) will be formed with members from each parish. One member of each Pastoral Council will be part of that committee. The PRCC will create the Pastoral Region Plan. The Plan will then be approved by the Pastoral Council and Pastor of each parish before being sent to the Archbishop for his approval.

Prior to the formation of the PRCC, the Pastoral Council will collect information, conduct research, and list the many topics that will need to be discussed by the members of the PRCC. The members mentioned some of those topics including faith formation, school operation, youth athletics, staffing, etc.

Members of the Pastoral Council are to prayerfully recommend parishioners, particularly those who are passionate about St. Bernadette, to be members of the PRCC by the next meeting. Father Bill will also provide a list of his duties to assist with the planning of future staffing requirements.

Pastor's Corner: Fr. Bill:

- Spoke about the recent announcement by the Pope that any priest can absolve a woman for the sin of abortion during the Year of Mercy that begins in December. He stated that in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, that authority by all priests has already been in effect for many years.
- Reported that with the Year of Mercy coming, a parish group intends to conduct a series of sessions to prepare for that year-long celebration. The planning group will meet five times (every other Wednesday beginning on September 23). Father Bill invited all members of the Pastoral Council to attend.
- Reminded members of the Family Conference to be held at the Comboni Mission Center on October 10 and the free presentation to take place at St. Bernadette on October 9th at 7:00pm.
- Informed the members of a presentation about hunger to be held at St. Bernadette on October 14 at 7:00 pm. A representative from Catholic Charities will conduct the presentation.

Parish Voice: Chairperson Tucker:

- Coordinated the generation and distribution of sign-up sheets for the upcoming parish picnic. The sheets will be available this coming weekend (September 12-13). Father Bill will make an announcement at the masses.
- Assigned members to distribute and collect nomination forms for Pastoral Council on September 12-13. Those nominated will be contacted by a member of the current Pastoral Council. The Secretary will prepare and distribute to all members a document listing information about the position.
- Assigned members to distribute and collect ballots for Pastoral Council on October 3-4.
- Informed the members that a sign-up list for the next Welcome Gathering on October 17th will be available at the next Pastoral Council meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting is Wednesday October 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Minutes approved on October 7, 2015