

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 7, 2016

In Attendance: John Dickhaus (Chairperson), Laura Brausch, Donna Cox, Janet Davis, Paul Justice, Rev. Bill Stockelman, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

Absent: Patty Pryor, Brian Baurichter

Guest: None

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairperson John Dickhaus.

Faith Formation: Chairperson Dickhaus opened with a reading from the Book of Micah 6:8. The reading tells of things God wants of us (act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly). The reading was followed by the recital of a poem written by Bishop Untener that was originally used in a sermon. The poem stresses that we cannot do everything and that no one act accomplishes the mission of the Church. Nevertheless, each act we accomplish becomes one step in that mission and so it is liberating to know that each act we do well is an opportunity for God's grace to do the rest.

The members reflected upon that poem and commented upon its meaning to them. Paul Justice mentioned that if one does something, something will happen. Other members said that whatever God wants us to do, no matter how small, can make a difference. Sometimes, it only takes one change to make a difference. It must also be remembered that the answer to our prayers can be "no".

Minutes: The minutes from the July 6, 2016 Pastoral Council meeting were approved.

Pastoral Council Elections: Chairman Dickhaus reviewed the election schedule and enlisted members to assist by passing out and collecting nomination forms and ballots. The schedule was modified this year to allow sufficient time to complete the election process.

- September 10-11: nominations accepted
- October 1-2: list of nominees listed in bulletin
- October 8-9: voting
- October 16: installation of new Pastoral Council at the 9:00 AM mass

Annual Parish Picnic: Chairman Dickhaus discussed details of the annual parish picnic. The date of October 2 was selected. Other members volunteered to purchase various items for the event.

Year End Financial: Chairman Dickhaus announced that the parish ended the fiscal year with an operating deficit of \$75,000. The deficit can be attributed primarily to the increased cost of health care and a decrease in Sunday collections (about \$40,000). This current fiscal year could result in a deficit of \$100,000. The recent parish festival generated less gross revenue (about \$45,000) than 2015 due to the weather on Saturday.

The members discussed the potential reasons for the deficit. A larger school population results in more teachers. Unfortunately, teachers are hired based upon registration counts generated early in the summer. If parents decide not to send their children in the fall, the expenses associated with the teachers do not automatically adjust accordingly. The grade school is up by two students but the pre-school is down by 12 from last year. The cost of healthcare continues to increase.

The members speculated about the possible impact of the One Faith, One Hope, One Love Capital Campaign on the Sunday collection. Could parishioners be contributing less to St. Bernadette in order to meet the capital campaign commitment?

Donna Cox asked about the rebate from the Archdioceses from the capital campaign and how those funds are being presented in the budget. Chairman Dickhaus said he would provide more details at the next meeting.

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

Parish Voice/New Business: There was no new business to come forth before the Council.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Upcoming meeting of the Pastoral Council
Wednesday October 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

Approved October 5, 2016