

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 7, 2018

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**In Attendance:** John Dickhaus (Chairperson), Christina Boss, Sarah Holland, John Kelly, Jeff Racic, Rev. Tim Ralston, Bill Rapp, Jeanie Stephens, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

**Absent:**

**Guest:**

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

**Faith Formation/Opening Prayer:** John Kelly opened the meeting by reading from the book of Sirach 3:17-24. The passage commences by stating: "Conduct your affairs with humility and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts." After completing the reading, John stated that humility occurs when a person has a completely honest, ongoing awareness and assessment of his/her strengths, weaknesses and personal limitations. Jeanie Stephens asked if a person can do that on their own? Can you acknowledge your own assessment without the help of those around you? Jeff Racic said that it is a difficult task. Jeanie continued by stating that we were not taught to do this growing up. Sarah Holland replied by saying that when you do receive feedback it is from the perspective of the other person. John Kelly added that he believes humility is necessary and that if we start thinking of ourselves too poorly, we become immobile. The members agreed that there is a fine line between bragging and humility. By being humble and using the gifts given to us, however, we show God's glory.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the October 10, 2018 Pastoral Council meeting were approved.

**Pastoral Council New Member Orientation:** Chairperson Dickhaus presented some organizational rules for new members of Council. This include a very brief review of key items on the list.

**Parish Directory Update:** Chairperson Dickhaus reminded the members of the recent mailing and bulletin posting about the photo opportunities for the upcoming Directory. He encouraged members to promote parishioners signing up for dates later in the month. Several members volunteered to assist with the photo shoots. He has contacted a couple of parishioners to assist with the Directory design and organization.

**Festival Update:** Chairperson Dickhaus informed the members that a letter regarding future festival leadership was sent out. So far, one person has agreed to accept a leadership role. John mentioned that the financial success of the festival relies on volunteers. If future festivals require the use of contracted labor, net revenue will be reduced.

**Parish Activity Report:** According to Chairperson Dickhaus, the recent adult Halloween dance was not as successful as hoped. The children's event, however, was well received. Likewise, the golf outing was very successful.

**School Update:** Chairperson Dickhaus announced that the estimated cost of school bathroom renovations is \$140,000. That number is a "high-end" estimated. It would include the restroom for the children and the closed faculty restroom. The price includes the necessary demolition, replacement of lead waste pipes, handicap accessibility, and new fixtures. While the need is not critical at this time, the parish has historically tried to be proactive in addressing essential infrastructure needs. This project will eventually be necessary. Members discussed options and pricing. The concern is that the cost will likely be higher in the future. The members realize that funding of such a project is not easy.

Members then began a related discussion of funding, not just of the bathroom project, but the parish in general. Jeanie Stephens suggested a stewardship promotion. Others mentioned what other parishes are doing. The status of the One Faith, One Hope, One Love Capital Campaign was brought into the discussion. An increased use of automatic electronic contributions was also mentioned. The members thought more financial information would be helpful. Chairperson Dickhaus indicated that he would contact Larry Brokamp of the Finance Committee for a future meeting.

**Parish 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Chairperson Dickhaus began updating the members on the use of pictures for the Directory. Fr Tim suggested asking parish organizations for pictures. Other members suggested possible sources for pictures. John then asked for names of long-time parishioners. The plan is to get these parishioners to gather at one time to talk about the parish in the past. That gathering would be taped and used as part of the anniversary celebration. Sarah Holland suggested that home-bound parishioners also be contacted so their photos also be included in the Directory.

Chairperson Dickhaus then asked about other events other than the picnic. Jeff Racic proposed something with the grotto. Fr Tim added that perhaps a Eucharistic procession to the grotto. More about the anniversary will be discussed at future meetings.

**Pastor's Corner:** Fr. Tim told the members about:

- The School of Faith program – For this year, a person comes in once a month for three hours and leads teachers in an evangelization program. The goal is to keep them growing in their faith and their relationship to God. Next year, the program will be expanded to all teachers.
- The annual October count – This year, the count reflected a decrease of 50 people per weekend over last year. The decline occurred mostly at the 5pm and 9am masses. Fr. Tim indicated that nationally, only 25% of Catholics attend mass regularly.

**New Business:** John Kelly asked a question about the recent festival letter and Chairman Dickhaus responded to his question.

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Next Meeting - Wednesday December 5, 2018</b></p>
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Approved: December 5, 2018