

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

March 9, 2015

Pastoral Council Members in Attendance:

Ron Bachy, Sue Buchholz, Arlene Gross, Paul Messineo, Ted Novak, Christine Stinson

Absent: Mary Jo Meyer

Others: Father Jim Deacon Herb, Don Cwynar, Betsy Krygowski, Gerry Meyer, Renae Brinza

Opening Prayer by Fr. Jim

Old Business

1) Parish Survey (Paul and Christine)

- The Parish Survey was finalized
 - The survey will be placed in the church pews for several weeks, beginning Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday
- A request was made that Father Jim announce the survey from the pulpit
- All parishioners should complete a survey
- The survey can be returned via US mail, the mail slot at the church, the collection basket
- Surveys will be replenished before each mass
- Paul and Christine will tally the survey results and present them to Pastoral Council

Action Item: Paul will revise the survey adding how to return it to Father

2) Role of Pastoral Council from Diocesan Meetings

- Not all Pastoral Council members attended the training.
- A comment was made that the survey was important as it can be used to understand the goals of the parishioners.
- A comment was made that there needs to be better communication with parishioners
- Parishioners do not know who is on Pastoral Council and Finance Council
 - These members are listed on the website but a decision was made to add their names to the bulletin.

3) Update on the "Church Evangelizing" (Ted and Sue)

- Sue, Ted and Mark Tinsley are running the program as a group.
- Interaction is great between those that attend
- Deacon Herb attends for moral support but, as is the goal, the laity are to lead the sessions and the New Evangelization is focused on the laity being evangelizers

- Long-term goal is to have smaller groups meet, i.e., Bible Study Group, and to have groups led by other than those on Pastoral Council.
- Some who attend these sessions could lead other groups
- Some of the attendees of the group are under 20 which is involving the younger members of the parish.

New Business

- 4) 40 Days for Life this Spring (Arlene)
 - 4th year St. Colman has participated
 - Our time is Tuesday, March 10th from 3-7pm
 - No one signed up for this time period except Arlene and her husband
 - CDA has the 5-7pm shift
 - Our participation is down this year from last, it could be due to the weekday and time
 - Overall the participation in the event is down in participation
 - In the future, she will try to get a Sunday
- 5) Review of Long Range Pastoral Council Strategic Plan (Tabled)
- 6) Review of last set of Goals and Objectives

Eucharist

Goal – to cultivate and nourish the spiritual growth of our parish members

- Penance Service
 - Our goal was to have a penance service at St. Colman
 - Diocese started the “Light is on for You” program and this negated our goal
 - Our revised goal is to make sure we have the sacrament of penance available to our parishioners.
- Extraordinary Minister and Lector Training
 - Training has been on an individual basis as new extraordinary ministers and lectors volunteer
 - A group meeting/training needs to be scheduled for each group separately
 - Lecturers will train first then extraordinary ministers
 - There will be two training dates
- 40 Days for Life Campaign was discussed earlier in the meeting
- Prayer Line or Prayer Chain
 - Ladies of Charity have assumed this responsibility; all is going well

Stewardship

Goal – to find more parishioners to volunteer for church activities

- Volunteer form to recruit volunteers

- This was over a year ago; needs to be done again
- Coordinate the volunteer form with the strategic plan activities
- We didn't receive many people who wanted to volunteer

Goal – to create a synergy between Pastoral Council and Finance Council

- A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the roles of Pastoral Council and Finance Council.
- Transparency - The Council agreed transparency is needed regarding everything both councils and the Parish Office are doing.
 - An example was to place in the bulletin the church's monthly expenses versus the monthly collection

Action Item: Paul and Christine will try to attend the Finance Council Meetings

Education

Goal – to provide program that will devotedly teach the Catholic faith

- Continue the Adult Bible Study – need more facilitators
 - The Adult Bible Study group is ongoing and successful
 - CCD – 94 students registered
 - Children's Liturgy program at 10am mass
 - The program has been assumed by another individual and is successful
 - Ladies of Charity – a group has been formed and is underway
 - Grief Sharing Group – still a successful program
 - Parish Mission was a success
 - Retreat(s) – first attempt failed as no one signed up.

Evangelization

Goal – to create an atmosphere of fellowship, hospitality, community, belonging and leadership in the Parish

- Food Bank – has been a successful program
- Neighborhood Family, Food and Fun Festival – was a successful event
- Greeter Program – it is starting out slowly but hopefully will gain speed

7) St. Colman building security plan per "Protecting God's Children"

- This is an important issue as an incident happened during a CCD class
 - A student left the premises without the knowledge of the leader of CCD or the student's CCD teachers.
 - Diocesan guidelines dictate that everyone must have clearances when children are in the building and not supervised by their parents.

- It was decided when CCD is in session, no other meetings, activities or events will be held in the building.
- It was decided that a security meeting will be called to address the issue of security for our students at CCD and for the members attending many of our meetings, events and activities.

Action Item: Betsy Krygowski will speak with other parish's DRE's to see if they have "formal plans" and get copies to review, covering physical building security, safety concerns (fire drills, lockdown drills in event of intruder, etc...) and measures to comply with Protecting God's Children program.

Gerry will get an extra key for the CCD staff so if a teacher is in the church and needs to get back into the building, he/she is able to do so.

8) Purchase of a new church organ

- Two bids to purchase a new organ are in the process of being obtained and one bid to rebuild the organ was requested.
- The cost for a new organ is approximately \$80,000 and the cost to rebuild is \$60,000.
- The Pastoral Council would like to purchase a new organ but we do not have the funds from the Church Alive Campaign (at this time) yet. In addition, the cost is more than the \$35,000 projected in the Church Alive Campaign. Finance Council will need to reevaluate what, if any items, will need to be removed from the Church Alive initiatives.

Action Item: The bids are to go to Finance Council so vendor selection can be made and submitted to Father.

For the Good of the Parish

- Don Cywnar presented an idea for consideration for our fellow Parishioners.
- Don would like to offer a repast meal for family members at the expense of the local funeral homes. However, we would be using a for-profit business on the church property which might jeopardize our tax exempt status.
- All in attendance thought this was a fantastic idea if we can iron out the details.
- After the meeting and before the typing of these minutes, Arlene contacted other churches and discovered they do these types of acts for parishioners but at the expense of the church.

Action Item: Renae will contact the Diocese and inquire about the rules for these types of initiatives.

Next Meeting is Monday, June 1, 2015 at 6:30 pm