

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
August 30, 2016

Pastoral Council Members in Attendance:

Ron Bachy, Maureen Brady, Sue Buchholz, Paul Messineo, Mary Jo Meyer, Ted Novak, Christine Stinson, and Pauline Schoffstall

Absent: Pamela Bodziock

Others: Father Jim, Deacon Herb, Gerry Meyer, Renae Brinza

Opening Prayer by Father Jim

After the opening prayer, Ted handed out a copy of the *Seven Petitions of the Lord's Prayer*

Old Business

1) Update on the 'Campaign for the Church Alive'

- As of April 30, 2016 the pledges we have received \$157,072
 - Our share is \$104,715 less \$7,000 for expenses which = \$97,715
 - Of the \$97,715 we paid for the organ and have \$13,871 remaining in our account
 - Council decided the \$13,871 should be saved and as we obtain more funds we should renovate the cafeteria and church bathrooms.

2) Update on the 'On Mission for the Church Alive'

- Much discussion took place regarding this mission.
- On September 25th an audio message will be played at each mass. The audio is a message from Bishop Zubik regarding the models.
- On September 27th, the committee for St. Colman's will attend a meeting to receive the models for our cluster.
- On November 7th the committee and a facilitator from the diocese will present the models to the parishioners and discuss any comments or concerns the parishioners might have on the various models.
- The final decision is made by the Bishop.
- This is an 8-month working process which begins September, 2016 and by February, 2018 a decision will be made of the new parishes.

3) Update on "Care Packages" to our parishioners in college

- The Ladies of Charity are willing to take on this program
- Renae is working on obtaining the information from Our Lady of Joy

Action Item: Renae will contact Our Lady of Joy for information on the program.

- 4) Parish Booklet is completed
- 5) Parish Survey Update
 - Action Items from the parish survey were reviewed.

New Business

- 1) Unbound Program for parish
 - Program financially sponsors children in foreign lands
 - It is a Catholic charity.
 - The program will send someone to speak to the parishioners at all masses.
 - There is not a collection but there will be information set up in the back of the church
 - Marc Tinsley and his family participated in this program as a family event
 - We will invite the speaker (Fr. Jerry O'Shea) for October 30th
- 2) Reverse Advent Calendar
 - Instead of receiving a gift, the idea is to put a non-perishable item in a bag. On Christmas Eve, the bag is given to the food bank.
 - A suggestion was made this might be a good project for CCD.

Action Item: Maureen & Pauline will handle this event.

- 3) Review and discussion of Council's Long Range Plan
 - A very lengthy discussion took place regarding long range versus short range plans and items and concerns that could be addressed versus those that are unknown due to the restructuring being done by the On Mission for the Church Alive.

Action Item: Ted will send Renae items that need to be addressed. Renae will put the items on a spreadsheet and send to the Council members to place a priority on them , i.e. Yes – No – Table.

- 4) Organization of Council Committees
 - Concern from some council members the committees don't interact with each other. Each group is doing their own thing.
 - This concern was addressed and the structure of the council was discussed at length. All agreed the council is a strategic body. Each group should do their own thing and bring ideas, concepts, impressions and perceptions to the council for review and evaluation.
 - Deacon Herb made it very clear we need the lay people to do more in the church.

- 5) Proposal to adopt a combined planning cycle with Finance Council
 - Council thought this was a good idea
 - Invite the president of the finance council to attend pastoral council
 - Annual plan can be done – suggest the plan go through 18 months that takes us to the end of the 'On Mission for the Church Alive'
- 6) Proposal to publish a 9x11 booklet on the Parish plan for distribution to all parishioners including introductory note from Fr. Jim on how the plan was developed, Mission Statement, Vision Statement and the five essential qualities of parish life, including Goals & Objectives of each.
 - Council will update their goals and objectives for the next 18 months .
 - A strategic plan will be prepared from the goals and objectives
 - Renae stated if the plan is put together, she will get it typed and assembled.

Action Item: All five area of parish life need to update their goals & objectives for the next meeting and review the status of the objectives for the last 12 months.

- 7) Proposal to ask more specific questions in future surveys that directly tie to questions of the five area of parish life.
 - Next survey will be in 2017 – probably Palm Sunday which is in April, 2017
 - Each committee will come up with a question or two for inclusion in the survey
 - Options were discussed about dividing the questions into the different areas
 - An evaluation of the current survey was reviewed and it appears we are covering the five areas of parish life.

Action Item: All five areas of parish life need to come up with one or two questions regarding their area for next year's survey.

- 8) Proposal to look at the panning cycle and define when Council should update the plan; committees could meet monthly as necessary.
 - This item was addressed with Item #6 above.

For the Good of the Parish

- 1) Father Jim reported that we are receiving a fewer number of Pittsburgh Catholics papers.
- 2) Blessing of Pets will be Saturday October 1, 2016.
- 3) Christian Parker is taking on the project of refurbishing the benches outside of church as his Eagle Scout project.
 - He will have the benches disassembled on September 17th & 18th and then again on the 24th and 25th.

- 4) Volunteer Sunday will be held on Saturday, October 22nd and Sunday, October 23rd
 - Certain areas that need volunteers should be targeted such as the changing and cleaning of the liturgical linens.

- 5) Catholic Men's Fellowship
 - Annual Men's Gathering is November 12th at the convention center
 - Bishop Zubik will speak
 - Cost is \$40 for adults; \$10 for youth and clergy is free

- 6) Bible Study
 - Trying to attract new members
 - There is a social on September 12th
 - Old vs New Testament will be presented by Marc Tinsley
 - Sue will introduce St. Luke and Ted will introduce Exodus.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 12, 2016 6:30 PM