

Pastoral Council Minutes

December 6, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Tony Erba with an opening prayer.

Members Present: Fr. Dennis, Fr. Peter Patrick, Jon Gabik, Stephen Chitwood, Nadine Weske, Kevin Keenan, Rita McKillip, Therese Ciofani, Kent Maly, Elaine Steele, Tony Erba, and Patti Van Kampen

Members not present: Jake Hansen, Tom Dean (trustee), Bob Kowalsky (trustee), Joe O'Neil (trustee)

Trustees present: Dave Schultz

Proceedings:

- Approval of Agenda and amended minutes from September and October. It was agreed that, going forward, Pastoral Council minutes would be posted on the websites of both parishes.
- Tony noted that Virginia Rader has resigned from the Pastoral Council, as her long-standing commitment to the Cathedral Center homeless shelter meal ministry precludes her attendance at the meetings.
- Pastor's report:
 - Fr. Dennis briefly reviewed a report on the number of priests in the diocese, which shows a continuing trend of fewer active priests projected for 2018.
 - Father then discussed a recent staff meeting, with the topic of how to reach out to parishioners.
 - The staff is somewhat discouraged on how to reach parishioners in their spiritual lives. For example, the recent Alpha program was disappointing in terms of attendance and outcomes.
 - Except for retired parishioners, the majority of parish members are short on time.
 - How can the parish assist them in their busyness? What could we be doing to help them grow spiritually in their relationship with the Lord?
 - Council members discussed how to reach busy parents, with one suggestion being to provide child care as an incentive to encourage attendance at a particular event.
 - A significant challenge is that busyness won't change for most people until their children are much older. How can we minister to them?
 - In discussing what has worked in the past, it was noted that service projects have been met with great enthusiasm. People are very enthused to help others, and activities with either flexible or finite time commitments appear more popular than those with regular, ongoing commitments.
 - The discussion also included how best to communicate with parishioners to identify what they need. Concluding this topic, Fr. Dennis came away with six ideas to pursue.
 - Father also mentioned a new feature in the weekly bulletin, including questions and answers for children and adults, designed to highlight the readings.

- Commission Reports:

-**HF Stewardship:** response to the latest time and talent campaign was very positive, especially the use of electronic forms. There was good response by parishioners turning in their forms during Mass. The committee is looking at ways to honor the many active volunteers at the parish.

-SR Stewardship: No report

-HF School: focus is on brainstorming ways to increase enrollment, including use of a QR code in the bulletin, which when scanned by a phone goes directly to the school website. Among ideas to promote school identity and visibility was to give a fun bag with HF School logo to all families filled with fun items, also branded with the school logo. HF is in the early stages of the accreditation process.

-SR School: Plan to have a visioning/marketing/strategic planning process led by an outside expert. Improvement in the school website was also highlighted.

-SR Prayer and Worship: Everyone is now using the Google Drive folder. An evening Mass on Thanksgiving Day is being considered for next year. Families are involved in lighting the Advent wreath this year. There will be one Christmas Day Mass this year, and there will not be a live Nativity. Improvements have been made to the choir location in an effort to enhance the Choir Mass experience. As an educational tool, the committee is looking at ways to address questions of why we do certain things at Mass.

-HF Prayer and Worship: Larry Theiss, director of music, composed a chant sung at the beginning of Mass during Advent. On Monday evenings (7:00 p.m.) during Advent, there is a guided reflection/prayer service held in the chapel. The early Christmas Eve Mass will feature the children's choir singing on the plaza before Mass, weather permitting. Christmas decorations will feature a new look and new colors this year. There is increased focus on how to be more welcoming at the Christmas Masses, including remarks from the presider, and Prayers of the Faithful that are specifically focused on our congregation.

It was noted that Fr. Dennis moved the announcements to before the start of Mass, in order not to disrupt the continuity of the service.

SR/HF Human Concerns: the committee needs a new leader. Tony mentioned a free workshop—"A Refugee's Journey: The Mechanics of the Refugee Resettlement Program in the United States", on Friday, December 15, from 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m., at the Cousins Center in St. Francis.

SR Finance: working on how to present the financial details to the parish.

HF Finance: Committee has been asked to come up with a five year strategic plan, and this should be ready for the next PC meeting.

-SR Formation: no report

-HF Formation: no report

- Spirituality of Stewardship Conference Summary
 - Elaine, Rita, and Tony attended, along with Fr. Dennis and Fr. Peter Patrick, and parish staff members. The conference was well attended—800 in total—very spiritual, and in general, very nicely done. Themes included: How are we serving the parishioners, or not?

- Speakers were highly motivational, and emphasized that if you build relationships, parishioners will willingly give and help.
- One of the workshops addressed how to gather and use data to identify how people think, and to assess their needs.
- As a follow up from the conference, Elaine presented two proposals for consideration by the Pastoral Council.
 - The first was to invite Barb Vite as an outside resource to conduct a 90 minute assessment of parish stewardship, including council members and others.
 - The second proposal was to ask Mark Kemmeter to conduct a “Mission Inventory”, which has been used in other dioceses outside of the state. SR/HF would become the pilot program for Wisconsin.
 - After much discussion, it was agreed that Mark Kemmeter would be invited to the January Pastoral Council meeting, so that the group could learn more about the program and determine whether it would be appropriate for the parishes.
- Tony introduced an evaluation tool: “From Maintenance to Mission”. Council members were asked to think about the checklist of questions and observe what is occurring in our parishes. Council members are to bring their reflections and observations to the next meeting, which may help with questions and discussions with Mark Kemmeter (if he attends the January Council meeting).
- The next meeting will include an update on Helping Hands, to be held on Sunday, March 4, 2018. The goal is to raise \$9,800.00, and package 20,000 meals over two shifts. Money will be raised during the second collection on Feb. 3/4 of next year.

Next PC meeting is scheduled for January 3 , 2018 at 6:30 @ Holy Family

Meeting was closed with the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis at 8:15.

Minutes submitted by Patti Van Kampen