

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2017

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

ST MARTHA'S CHURCH – 6:30 – 8:00 PM

In attendance: E. Kiley, J. Bacon, M. Colombo, L. Ouellette, D. Ouellette, M. Guerin, B. Sawyer, D. Murphy, D. Barton, B. Hewitt

Absent: B. Sawyer, P. Moses, R. Robinson

Finance Council Representative: K. Smullen

Staff in attendance: Deacon Blackwell

- I. Prayer (used prayer sheet containing standard opening and closing prayers for the first time)
- II. Approval of Minutes from the September 21, 2017 meeting: Minutes accepted with a few minor modifications. Moved by Marie Guerin; seconded by Dave Barton. Donna Murphy, abstained.
- III. Old Business:
 - a. Subcommittee Reports
 - Communication – Mary Colombo
 1. Discussion of Dave Guthro presentation in the Hall, which was well attended. Mary met with Mark Reeth our new Communications Coordinator to explain the Facebook page and to remove herself as one of the administrators. Mark added a post to the parish page the very next day and is very active. He has met with Curtis, our web administrator, twice, including a conversation on 11/16. Curtis executes on the strategy for the website; Mark oversees. The website and Facebook pages should be important parts of evangelization in our parish. Positive diocesan stories rarely got wide distribution prior to Dave Guthro's arrival into his role and we anticipate good response to Mark's efforts.
 - Young Adults – Beth Hewitt
 1. There was a Young Adult Listening Session with Carolyn Houston. Mary Colombo and Renee Robinson also attended to assist and take notes. Report: 6 young adults attended. Carolyn used questions from "Listening Sessions with Young Adults" that the diocese had used. Feedback from the attendees included individuals feeling funny in going to church when they don't know anyone or if they are the only young person in attendance. The attendees agreed that they would appreciate events that were more relevant to them or knowing that events were happening that would be of interest to them or geared

towards them. Carolyn created a young adult Facebook page the next day to connect regarding events. The attendees were between 20 and 26 in age. The YA team indicated that responses on the diocesan survey were possibly more honest as they were anonymous rather than in person, as the attendees were already involved in the parish. The YA team met afterwards and reflected that we have a broader age range than the survey in our Parish (our YA group ranges from 18 to 39). The needs of “20 somethings” are different than those of 30s and 40s. The team has decided on creating an event for our broader YA “family”.

- a. An Advent Celebration (wreath blessing and craft to make at event for Story Time) that was scheduled for the First Sunday of Advent (12/3) with information in the bulletin for 2 weeks. St Nicholas was to attend at each church on 2 different weekends.
 - b. There was discussion of the Italian tradition of Bambinelli (blessing of the crèche Baby Jesus figure)
 - c. Offer Alpha: Faith enrichment opportunity on a Sunday in the late afternoon for January start with child care offered
- b. Friendly Visitor Update – Marie Guerin
 - Not much progress over the summer. Marie will work with Catholic Charities to pursue personal SEARCH program training and put together recommendations based on that and on need as described by some staff, Knights, others in the Parish.
 - c. Fundraising Guidelines – Mary Colombo
 - These guidelines were reviewed at the September 21st meeting. Update at this meeting was to share the updated version of the guidelines and the “Request for Fundraising” form.
 - d. Meeting Calendar Update – Mary Colombo
 - Mary reviewed the schedule of official and which were unofficial meetings.
 - e. Parish Directory – Mary Colombo
 - There was further discussion about updating the 7-year-old Parish Directory with specifics provided by Fr. Fred about an offer made by Lifetouch, which includes 5% of related photography purchases being donated back to the church. The company also offers updatable directories. The council questioned if these are online or in print form, but that information is presently unavailable.
 - f. Report of first unofficial Pastoral Council meeting – Mary Colombo. The first unofficial meeting occurred at St Mary’s. The book the Council had agreed to discuss had not yet arrived, so the group discussed a related book that was available at the USCCB website.
- IV. New Business:
- a. Parish Commissions Connection to the Pastoral Council: Sometime in the past Commission chairs were on the Council. Father expressed his belief that we have sub-committees and initiatives that match the five Commissions, and that the Council members could continue our efforts as we are currently engaged in them and reach out to the Parish to get input and feedback. As examples, Family Life is currently

represented by the activities of the Parish Social Life committee and our active focus on Young Adults; Worship and Spirituality are being addressed through the email portion of our Communications initiative and the work that Mark Reeth is undertaking; Faith Formation is actively addressed by Roseanne for adults and Carolyn for youth. For Social Justice and Peace a group meets after the 8 a.m. Mass on First Fridays (which he acknowledged is not a time that is convenient for younger parishioners who may want to be involved). For Church Life, the communications initiative and the outreach we do at the Masses seem to fulfill many of the same purposes. Adding additional groups such as the Commissions could create confusion. Father asked us to think over which of the Commissions areas we might each be willing to volunteer to be more involved in and represent the parish members' opinions back to the Pastoral Council.

b. Future Agenda Items:

- Fr. Fred talked about increasing reverence on Holy Days and that information on this topic has been sent out to the groups who meet in the church. Meetings are sometimes being held at the same time as the Mass (especially on week days), which results in noise and commotion. Sometimes it seems as though the Eucharist is not the center of the Parish. The recommendation is that the groups hold their activities away from Mass times. Additionally, there is a lack of coordination or forethought for some aspects of meetings, especially where refreshments and meeting times are involved. For instance, on fast and abstinence days, some meetings still have donuts and coffee. Some groups continue to meet during the Triduum when such meetings should be held outside of Holy Week.
- Child friendly activities: Fr. Fred explained that we have begun making a good connection with our children by having materials available that are of interest to them (crayons and religious-themed coloring sheets, for example) and people to chat with them and with their parents at Coffee Hour and other Social Life events and Monthly Breakfast.
- Disciple-Maker Index: no new information available for discussion

c. Final Meeting in June celebration: tabled discussion for now

V. Fr. Fred Updates:

- a. Parish Fair: This was one of best fairs on record. Initial reports are that we made as much as last year: As of meeting we had made \$40,000 gross, with expenses still needing to be netted out. As the St Mary's furnace has been giving us a hard time, this is welcome news. This furnace is the original one in the church and parts are no longer made for it. At St. Martha's, the hall, the overall building, and the church are all on one furnace. In terms of power outages, we had a bad one last winter and already have had one this year (St Mary's: air in the pipes handles the sprinklers. When we lost power, the fire engines came. There was a hole in the pipes so the pressure was released). We need to consider backup generation and get some estimates.
- b. WeShare: the program has increased our Offertory. 30% of the congregation are travelers. We made a push for the program in September and will do another one in January.

c. Parish Communications was covered earlier in the meeting.

VI. Closing Prayer: done by the group, using the Prayer Sheet

Upcoming regular meetings (3rd Thursday): Jan 18 (St. Mary's), March 15 (St. Martha's), May 17 (St. Mary's)

Unofficial Meetings for readings:

- December 14 (St Martha's)
- February 15 (St Mary's)
- April 19 (St Martha's)
- June 21 (St Mary's)

Next Finance Council meeting: December 21st.