

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2018

Members Present: Fr. Jon, Fr. Nate, Les C., Anna C., Kathy M., Anna C., Scott K.,  
Sheila H., Sue B., Sue H., Kim M.  
Members Absent: Jeff H., Maria M.  
Guests: Debbie D.

## I WELCOME

Fr. Jon welcomed the new members and asked them to introduce themselves. He stated that Kim M. will remain as recorder and that there is a vacancy for the position of Chairperson.

Fr. Jon explained that the council is not in the position to solve problems but hopefully we can bring about programs needed for the spiritual needs of the parish.

New members: Sue Hadenfelt, Scott Kohnen, and Kathy Miller were present. Debbie Dellumo is the Director of Religious Education, Faith Formation and Liturgy. Fr. Jon spoke that Debbie has been of great assistance helping with the Advent season. She came to St. Patrick in November and jumped right in to help with the environment inside the church for Advent.

Debbie is working closely with Fr. Jon to move the youth of the parish into a more traditional faith formation program. This insures that all youth in our parish will be educated in the faith using the same resources. Fr. Jon stressed that we are one faith community. He explained that Debbie would be instrumental in assisting with youth and adult programs.

Fr. Jon thanked the new members for stepping up to assist the parish at this level.

Fr. Jon would like to see written terms for council members. This would provide clarity of roles and provide a system with rotation of new members each year; the people who 'roll off' council would then help with a commission within the parish. It is often said to the Pastor of a parish "this is your parish", Fr. Jon disagrees with this statement; he believes the parish belongs to the people in the pews. We the people, have to take ownership in what we believe.

## II SYNOD UPDATE

When Fr. Jon and Fr. Nate arrived at the parish they began with forming a Leadership Team. This Leadership Team consists of adults and high school students. This group has met with St. Ann's, our sister parish, to collaborate. By the end of February Fr. Jon will write a letter to the parish explaining the direction of the parish through the synod process.

Fr. Nate explained that each parish was to adopt 3 topics/areas that were covered in the synod process. Per Bishop Hying, every parish was required to adopt **Evangelization**. St. Patrick also adopted **Hospitality** and **Youth**. The Leadership Team developed a Mission Statement which Fr. Nate read aloud. Within the Mission Statement the team was to come up with 3 **S-M-A-R-T** goals in each area. These **SMART** goals are to be **S**-specific and measurable, **M**-motivational, **A**-attainable, **R**-relevant, **T**-track-able and time bound. Once

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2018

the goals have been established the role of the council will be to move the goals into the parish. The council will develop ways this can happen.

The Bishop is adamant about having the youth be a part of the solution. We are losing fellow Catholics at an alarming rate, in our diocese and across the nation. There is a high priority put on encouraging young people to be part of the Liturgy. Monthly we have been hosting Sundaes Sunday Liturgies. At this Mass the youth of the parish are involved with reading, taking up offertory, serving as ushers and greeters.

The newly formed Liturgy Commission met the other night and many youth were present, it was interesting to see their perspective of the Mass.

Some key Evangelization ideas are spreading the word about what's going on at St. Pats, continuing to personally invite others, sending out postcards to those who have not attended Mass recently, and using the Chesterton Tribune. It is estimated that approximately 2,200 people come through our doors each weekend. There are 1,400 registered families.

Scott asked if there was data on who's coming and who's not each weekend. Fr. Jon explained that there is a parish program that monitors church envelopes and online payment users. This program will classify a parishioner as 'dormant' if they haven't used an envelope in awhile.

Fr. Jon is hoping a subcommittee of pastoral council members will take on the task of looking at current parish data and making necessary updates to parishioner information. The current information is very outdated. This committee can meet to discuss ways to have parishioners update their information. This task would also involve the entry of the new data. Fr. Jon would be willing to assist this committee. Scott K., Sheila H., and Kim M. agreed to form this subcommittee.

### III OVERVIEW OF PASTORAL COUNCIL ROLE

Fr. Jon explained that the pastoral council is an advisory group. The pastor uses the pastoral council to seek advice and direction for the parish. The pastoral council should assist with commission development. A commission then would take an idea and be responsible for developing a process and a budget. The commission members are the workers/developers and they would turn to the council for guidance. At times this process can seem slow, but it can take time to get people (the parishioners) to believe in an idea. Sometimes timing itself can be complex. Just because a past idea didn't take off doesn't mean it won't work the next time it's presented. Ideas and suggestions continually flow back and forth between the commissions and the council.

Kathy M. asked what the term for the commission volunteer would be. Fr. Jon said they too would serve a 3-year term. Fr. Jon explained further that each commission would appoint a liaison who would attend any pastoral council meeting to communicate pertinent information and report back to the commission. Sheila H. added that it's important for ministry leaders to train others so the ministry (and parish) can move on in their absence.

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2018

Susan B. added that it's easier for people to volunteer if they know their term is limited. Debbie D. added that it is important to have a clear description of one's role.

Kathy M. asked what the fruits of the parish app have been. Fr. Jon stated that the app provides the parishioner an instant message of parish events/meetings. The app also provides the parishioner with opportunities for prayer.

Debbie D. asked if the council planned to host a ministry fair any time soon. Fr. Jon stated that we may be more prepared for a ministry fair in the fall.

2018 TIMELINE:

1. update parishioner data
2. form commissions
3. create a ministry directory
4. continue with synod process
5. host a ministry fair

Fran A. manages a central calendar in the parish office. This central calendar serves as a line of protection and safety to those on campus at any given time.

Welcoming – as of date, new parishioners receive a welcome letter from Fr. Jon.

Adoration – Kathy M. asked if she should continue to work to increase the devotion to the Blessed Sacrament? She stated that there are many devoted parishioners who continue to come each Thursday. Fr. Jon's suggestion is to defer Eucharistic Adoration to the newly formed Liturgical Ministry to discern.

Scott K., Sheila H, Kim M., Fr. Jon and Fr. Nate will form a subcommittee to strategize ways to update parishioner data.

Next pastoral council meeting: Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Teacher's Lounge.