

## Parish Pastoral Council Minutes – March 8th, 2016

**Present:** Father Ed, Debbie Traini, Bill Wuest, Liesl Wuest, Chuck Zech, Susan Hackett, Mary Chollet, Lynne Schofield, Kevin Haggerty, Carly Tolson

**Absent:** Mark Vacha, Renée Dennis

I. Opening Prayer - Mary

II. Minutes

- January minutes were approved.

III. Pastor's Report

- Attendance/Collections

- i. Father Ed shared his recent discussions with the Finance Council who recently analyzed the parish collections and found that although weekly attendance has increased ~25%, collections have remained stagnant. Fr. Ed and the council met with Diocesan Committee to learn about methods to improve collections. They decided on composing a letter asking parishioners to consider increasing their weekly offertory. The letter will be distributed to all parishioners following Easter.

- Immigration adoption update

- i. Father Ed, Kevin, Lynne, and Mary met with St. Thomas Aquinas Parish to discuss their experience with the Refuge Family Adoption Program. They encouraged our parish to start ASAP. As a result a former family who benefitted from the adoption program under Monsignor Stevenson will speak to Fr. Ed, Kevin, Lynne, and Mary about their experiences from the program.

- Convent (Parish Life Center) Update

- i. Father Ed and Debbie shared that ongoing meetings are coming close to an end. Debbie and John Bowie have been working on obtained preliminary estimates for the current plans. They plan on having these estimates by next week (3/14/16). Father Ed and Debbie shared that estimates were being obtained not only for the rehabilitation of the space, but an entire demolition and rebuilding as well. The overall sense at this time is that the project should be a rehabilitation project rather than a rebuilding project because the parish inherited this space and is now trying to determine how to best utilize it. The difference in costs to rehab vs. rebuild will be obtained to help the parish community understand the significant difference between the two approaches.

- Implications for Mass Attendance Increase

- i. PPC had a thoughtful discussion about how to best involve all of the new individuals who are coming to Mass and also engage “new” parishioners via Baptisms and other church programs. Bill and Liesl suggested that baptisms should be moved to after the 9:30AM mass and families be encouraged to attend the mass beforehand. Then after the conclusion of the baptism a welcoming reception could be held. This could increase the welcoming atmosphere and encourage families to regularly attend the mass.

- Muslim Speaker

- PPC discussed sponsoring a local Muslim speaker to help provide the parish community with more information about the Muslim faith in light of the current events across the country that are leading to anxiety, anger, distrust, and fear of Muslims. A particular speaker was recommended, and we are waiting to hear back about his availability and thoughts on how to make such an event most successful.

#### IV. Finance Report

Update from Mark via email “we are pursuing an enhanced offertory program and have met with advisors. We have also discussed how to approach the PREP program given that it is fairly heavily supported (or subsidized by the parish). I think the PPC can be helpful in terms of helping finance be focused on larger themes and parish goals and developments (and success stories) that may help connect the new program so it not only supports, but transcends the bottom line.”

#### V. Ministry Report

- 2016 Parish Goals

- i. Reach out to inactive parishioners/Catholics
- ii. Grow youth presence and participation across the parish
- iii. Strengthen SJC relationship with/ support Saint Katherine Drexel (sister parish)

Mary Chollet presented the Parish Goals which will be presented at the spring ministry meeting (March 13<sup>th</sup>). There was a discussion concerning developing similar goals for the PPC. Chuck suggested that this be a major part of the May PPC Meeting.

PPC discussed the organization of the Spring Ministry Weekend and the best way to engage parishioners who attend. It was decided that handouts will be distributed to parishioners as they leave mass and that PPC members will engage people in the gym to gauge their interests and encourage them to talk with targeted ministries.

Lynne suggested that we involve the PREP families in the weekend. After some discussion it was decided that in the future the PREP weekend that falls on the ministry weekend will be scheduled to include attendance at the ministry weekend and interfacing with the CYO program. Mary and Fr. Ed will talk to Theresa to see if these changes are feasible this year.

Ministry Weekend: April 9-10 - PPC members to mark our calendars and plan to attend!

The date of the Ministry Appreciation Night has been changed to May 14<sup>th</sup>

PPC members to take this event on as one of our 2016 service projects.

VI. New Business / Future Topics

- Discuss PPC Goals for the future
- Discuss June meeting date - alternatives to June 14th?

**Next Meeting: 6:45 p.m. May 10, 2016**