

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes – May 10, 2016

Present: Fr. Ed, Mary Chollet, Susan Damico Hackett, Kevin Haggerty, Lynne Scheuerle Schofield, Carly Tolson, Debra Traini, Mark Vacha, Bill Wuest, Liesl Wuest, Chuck Zech

Absent: Renee Dennis

Fr. Ed opened with the Gospel reading for Pentecost, and the minutes of March 8 were approved.

1. Pastor's Report

- **Parish Life Center:** Fr. Ed reported that detailed architectural drawings are nearly ready for informal review by about five contractors. The parish will be seeking ballpark estimates from these companies before obtaining formal bids, to make sure the project is within realistic financial goals. A structural engineering review of the design is also planned, as well as an Archdiocesan review. Father noted that current meeting space constraints are a growing problem for parish ministries.
- **Refugee Family Adoption:** Kevin Haggerty reported on behalf of the Immigration Committee that after a number of meetings, including two with the refugee resettlement group HIAS, the parish had committed to sponsoring an African single mother and her daughter, who are seeking asylum in the United States. A hearing on their asylum petition is scheduled for May 25. Kevin and Fr. Ed explained that obtaining refugee status would unlock critical benefits for the family. Some members of the parish will attend this hearing as a show of support for the family. Kevin and Father also shared that the initial Immigration Committee of five has been expanded to 10-12, with additional parishioners to organize the parish's response going forward. The parish will be moving quickly to provide for this family, who will need housing and furnishings by early June.

Members of the Immigration Committee are tentatively scheduled to address the full parish about this effort on May 21-22.

- **Increased Offertory Campaign:** Final figures are not yet available, but Fr. Ed reported that the increased offertory mail campaign had spurred increased contributions from the ranks of current donors. The campaign has been less successful in getting parishioners who do not contribute to begin to support the parish. The parish will be eblasting the campaign as well, with particular emphasis on getting parishioners to adopt electronic giving.
- **Collections:** Mark Vacha thanked Fr. Ed for supporting two weeks of after-Mass sales of Phillies tickets. Fr. Ed said that new guidelines for fundraising sales outside of church were being developed and that groups should not rely on

pulpit announcements for their sales. Father also said that Mark should coordinate fundraising ideas for the Knights with the Finance Council.

- **Also:** Carly Tolson thanked Fr. Ed and the parish for sponsoring a table at CityTeam's Angel Auction and said the event had raised \$120,000 for CityTeam's Mother-Baby Program.

2. Ministry Report

- **Ministry Weekend:** Mary reported positive feedback from Ministry Weekend and good member signups by some ministries. Snow on that Saturday and continued cold on Sunday dampened church attendance, which is a critical factor in Ministry Weekend attendance. Mary said that she hoped to integrate next year's event with the PREP classes, to increase family attendance. The group discussed scheduling considerations for next year.

Also regarding PREP, several Council members discussed ideas for encouraging PREP families to attend Mass together. Ideas included having the PREP classes "host" a Mass (bring up gifts, proclaim readings) or have a children's choir. Fr. Ed noted that a children's choir would require a major commitment by an adult leader. He noted that we have been looking for a new director for the Youth Band for two years.

- **Ministry Appreciation Dinner:** Mary said that the Appreciation Dinner was fully booked, with about 200 people expected for the May 14 event. Pastoral Council members signed up to tend bar for the event.
- **Al-Anon:** Mary said that she had been in discussion with local Al-Anon district officials about hosting an Al-Anon meeting at St. John's. She also met with potential leaders of that meeting. (Al-Anon provides weekly support groups for family and friends of people with active addiction issues and recovering from addiction.) Like SJC's current arrangement with AA, St. John's would not be directly involved with these meetings but simply provide the meeting space. Mary said that she felt the SJC meeting would fill a significant gap: There is currently no Al-Anon chapter in Wallingford, Swarthmore or Chester, or at the time we are considering. Mark Vacha asked if the SJC Al-Anon would have a Catholic focus. Mary explained that like AA, Al-Anon is not tied to any religious organization. Mark asked if the parish could arrange a parish talk/workshop on addiction from a clinical and pastoral standpoint. Fr. Ed supported the idea, and Mary has been working on this.

3. Parish Pastoral Council Succession / Schedule

- **New Terms:** Fr. Ed announced that the Council would need to fill three vacancies in June, when the 2015-16 term ends. (A list of the current Council terms follows below.) Father thanked Bill Wuest for his Council service and noted that two

other unfilled vacancies remained from members who left previously. Father will appoint one new member, and two will be selected through a discernment process.

A discernment session has been scheduled for June 5, and the vacancies are being advertised through parish media (bulletin insert, web site, eblast, etc.). The Council also discussed the importance of current members' reflecting on whom they might approach as potential members and invite to this meeting. All members agreed that they would like to see more diversity on the Council.

New Schedule: Fr. Ed also announced that the Council would both add and lengthen meetings in 2016-17, to provide more continuity and more time for discussion on the parish's growing list of items and issues. Nine meetings of 1¼ hours each will be added next year. The Council will be off in July, August and December.

Bill Wuest said that the Council should meet in December to plan ways to reach out to Christmas Mass-goers who do not normally attend Sunday Mass. Other Council members agreed that this was a worthwhile goal, but that any planning for it should occur earlier in the fall.

The final meeting of the year will be at 6:45 p.m. June 14, 2016.

Submitted,

Mary Chollet

Parish Pastoral Council Terms

All appointed and elected terms are three years, unless extended by the pastor.

Role	Name	Term Start	Term End
Ex officio / Facilitator	Chuck Zech		Ongoing
Ex officio / Parish Finance Council	Mark Vacha		Ongoing
Ex officio / Parish Pastoral Staff	Mary Chollet		Ongoing
Ex officio / Youth Ministry Leader	Renée Dennis		Ongoing
Appointment	Bill Wuest	July 2013	June 2016
Appointment (4-year)*	Susan Damico Hackett	July 2013	June 2017
Appointment (4-year)*	Liesl Wuest	July 2013	June 2017
Appointment	Debra Traini	July 2014	June 2017
Appointment	Kevin Haggerty	July 2015	June 2018
Appointment	Lynne Steuerle Schofield	July 2015	June 2018
Appointment	Carly Tolson	July 2015	June 2018
Appointment	TBD	July 2016	June 2019
Appointment	TBD	July 2016	June 2019

**Term extended 1 year by pastor*