

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes – June 14, 2016

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

Absent: Liesl Wuest

Fr. Ed opened with a prayer with a special focus on the victims of the Orlando shooting, and the minutes of May 19th were approved.

1. Pastor's Report

- **New Pastoral Council Members were introduced.**
 - Father shared how positive the PPC discernment process was and that it resulted in four new members including: Deanna Venner, Marianne Duffy, Brian Larson and Neil Sheehan. Deanna and Marianne were both present for this meeting and Brian and Neil will officially start at the September meeting.
- **Youth Minister**
 - Renee tendered her resignation. Looking to fill the position which is 10 hrs./week. The working hours are flexible. Please think about any contacts or ideas to advertise for the position.
- **Refugee Family Adoption**
 - Father reported that Lina, and her 6-year-old daughter, Nami have settled in nicely into their apartment in Upper Darby. Nami is attending St. Laurence this summer as well as this fall. Please visit the website dedicated to the family for any updates including how to assist. Envelopes for donations for the family will soon be left in the pews to make it easy for people to contribute.
- **PPC Procedure Changes**
 - Mary shared procedural changes including:
 - All PPC members will rotate through being in charge of leading the meeting in prayer and taking meeting minutes
 - The PPC member responsible for meeting minutes will share the draft by the Friday after the meeting
 - Members will have until noon the following Friday to provide comments/suggested changes
 - If there are no changes, or once changes are made, the minutes will be approved and posted so as to keep the parish updated on our meetings in a more timely fashion.

2. Ministry Report

- Mary shared the grid that lists all of the parish ministries as well as the PPC who is either a member of the ministry or has a contact with the ministry. The goal is to have a PPC point of contact for each ministry and several ministries did not have a contact. We went through to try to fill in as many as possible. A few ministries still don't have PPC contacts, but several additional ones did get filled in with a PPC member. Mary will update the grid to reflect these additions. Chuck suggested that Mary inform the ministry leaders about this process and encourage them to reach out and communicate as needed with their PPC contact.

3. PPC Objectives

- Group spent the majority of the meeting discussion how PPC can best support Parish Goal #1: Increase participation of inactive Parishioners. Several suggestions had been sent in prior to the meeting and the group brainstormed additional ideas. Following are the submitted and group generated ideas:
 - Send communication from a lay leader updating inactive parishioners on a variety of ministry activities and inviting their participation
 - Have an outside Mass in a more informal setting
 - Host a "Welcome Home" session that invites folks to share their concerns and ask questions in the presence of the Pastor and provide an opportunity for open, honest dialogue.
 - Host a Youth Mass on a Sunday evening
 - Invite inactive members to participate in our volunteer activities—like the Hope Café
 - Encourage the ministry leaders whose focus is on social justice issues to think about how their ministry can best reach inactive members (*We want ministries to focus on their ministry activities--- but we also want them to think about how critical they are to our Parish goal of reaching inactive members*).
 - Encourage "bringing a friend" to as many volunteer related activities as possible (and the picnic)
 - Certain ministries that have a focus on outreach could be invited to have a conversation with PPC around how we can support them and work together to strategize around reaching inactive members
 - Use the electronic sign to have messages that focus on reaching inactive members through advertising opportunities that might interest them (more service oriented messages)
 - Use advertising in general (newspapers like Town Talk, Swarthmorean, etc... , social media, the sign, etc...) to highlight our volunteer and service activities as a way to help people get the message about our services (works) vs. coming to Mass

- Mailing campaign to inactive members—with a focus on getting involved in ministries
 - Use SWIM (the interfaith group) as a vehicle to reach inactive members
 - Prayer service for Orlando victims
 - Use homilies as a means to communicate our Parish goal to reach inactive members.... Weave in the message that it may be our personal connections and personal invitations that bring people back to being involved.
- The Theme that emerged from this very rich conversation was: Evangelize through Service!
- We think that we should use our services as the focus of communication to reach inactive members vs. trying to get them to come to Mass right away. The long term goal is to have them come to Mass, but it seems more likely that they will be open to service oriented activities and then may decide to come to Mass.
 - Based on this strong theme—we need to challenge ourselves to think about how to communicate and execute around this.
 - Do we have “cool” service events that we can invite people to?
 - What are the best ways to communicate about these activities?

The meeting ended before the group had time to discuss Goals 2 and 3.

Goal 2: Increase participation of youth/young adults

Goal 3: Build our relationship with Saint Katherine Drexel

We will discuss goals 2 and 3 at our September meeting.

Father Ed concluded the meeting with a prayer.