

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes – Sept. 13, 2016

Present: Fr. Ed, Deanna Benner, Mary Chollet, Marianne Duffy, Susan Hackett, Kevin Haggerty, Brian Larson, Lynne Schofield, Neil Sheehan, Carly Tolson, Debra Traini, Maureen Wortz, Liesl Wuest

Absent: None

I. Opening Prayer – Debbie Traini

II. Introductions - Fr. Ed warmly welcomed the new members of Parish Pastoral Council (Deanna Benner, Marianne Duffy, Brian Larson, Neil Sheehan and Maureen Wortz). All Council members introduced themselves.

III. Ministry Report – Mary Chollet

Following up on a process begun by the prior Council, Mary discussed the plan to assign each ministry a contact person on Council. The purposes are to strengthen connections between the Council and the ministries, to make sure that Council is “seeing” every part of parish life, and to help Council members keep in closer touch with ministry objectives and activity.

Council members volunteered to serve as the point person for various ministries. The final list is appended to this report. Mary will distribute the list to the ministry leadership and discuss the plan Sept. 18 at the Fall Ministry Leadership Luncheon. Council members were urged to attend the luncheon, to begin to build these relationships.

Also reviewed:

Welcome Weekend (8:30am – 1:30pm Sunday, Oct. 2): Mary discussed plans for this event, formerly known as Ministry Weekend. The annual event, last held in April, has been rebranded (to give it a more welcoming feel) and moved to the fall (to tap the back-to-school energy, welcome people back to church, and get them involved in parish life at our busiest time of the year). Welcome Weekend will be held Sunday only but promoted widely. PPC members will hand out information and event maps at the church exits after all Masses that weekend (including Saturday) to personally invite Mass-goers. Mary will be sending out a sign-up sheet for that. Mary also noted that, for the first time, PREP students, parents and catechists will be integrated into the event. Students and catechists will attend the festival as a PREP class. All students eligible for ministries (4th – altar servers; 5th – junior lectors; 6th – youth group and youth choir) will be prepared to visit those tables with their teachers. Parents will be encouraged to join their kids for the event. First and second graders will learn about Aid for Friends and take home AFF pans to their families. Council approved of these plans.

Fr. Ed encouraged Council members to attend the event and to be proactive about welcoming and introducing themselves to guests.

Youth Minister: The parish is still searching for a Youth Minister, but at the initiative of several Youth Group members, Mary is working with the group in the interim. The group

has strong youth leadership, is meeting every two weeks, and is involved in several service projects on and off campus. The faith and spirit of our youth is impressive!

IV. Pastor's Report

Theme. Fr. Ed announced that he wanted to establish a theme of “seeing” for parish leaders and staff this year. Throughout this year, we are asked to look closely and with fresh hearts and eyes at our strengths and weaknesses as individuals and as a parish family, to see who is participating with our family worship and events, and to discern who and what is missing. He noted that several new Council members, Neil Sheehan and Brian Larson, are communications professionals who can be very helpful in reaching out.

Several Council members noted that we are seeing fewer youth and young adults at Mass and events. Kevin Haggerty suggested creating a youth position on Council, or perhaps inviting a youth to join our meetings several times a year. Father said he would consider it. Liesl Wuest noted the absence of young adults.

Carly Tolson suggested that an interfaith service, perhaps tied to an event like the MLK holiday, could help connect us to other faiths in our community and to reach Catholics who have been less active.

Lynne asked if we could do more with our Sister Parish, St. Katharine Drexel. Mary noted that the parishes have swapped choirs and that our cantors have served there. She also said that our ministries had begun advertising meetings and events in SKD's bulletin to try to build those relationships.

Fr. Ed also challenged the Council to cultivate “Gospel/Christian/Catholic imaginations” in their lives and leadership – to bring a “Jesus-centered imagination” to a world that can be spiritually empty despite the din (and, increasingly, anger) of daily life.

Facilities. Fr. Ed also announced that the Convent had been shut down, immediately and indefinitely, as a meeting space due to health concerns. The PREP Office has been moved into the Parish House, increasing the squeeze on facilities space. Father noted that the parish offices are packed and that ministries are competing for meeting space, leaving no room on campus for new positions, ministries or initiatives.

The Council discussed several options for increasing space, including mobile units (Neil), temporary dividers for the Lower Church Hall (Mary), and using school space.

V. New Business. Fr. Ed asked Council members to reflect before the next meeting on any needs or initiatives they would like the parish to pursue this year. A brainstorming session will be held next time.

Fr. Ed closed with a prayer.

Next meeting: 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18

--Mary Chollet