

St. John Chrysostom Parish

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2017 – 6:45 PM – Stevenson Center

Present: Father Ed, Deanna Benner, Mary Chollet, Marianne Duffy, Kevin Haggerty, Lynne Schofield, Neil Sheehan, Carly Tolson, Debra Traini, Maureen Wortz , Chuck Zech

Opening Prayer – Kevin led the group with a blessing prayer

I. Father Ed Report

- Father reminded us that Theresa Hedlund announced her retirement from the DRE position in April. He also informed us that Mary Pizzano, a St. John's parishioner and current DRE at St. Monica's in Berwyn, would be taking over in the new position. She will start right after July 4th.
- Father indicated that a fundraising feasibility study would be conducted by the Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia to see if we have the capacity to raise the funds to update the convent into the Parish Life Center. This study is required by the diocese. Kevin emphasized the importance of sharing the vision of the Parish Life Center as a hub of our future service, inclusion and growth.
- Father shared the great news of John Bowie's ordination as a deacon and his assignment to our parish. Deacon John's roles and responsibilities with the parish will be determined in the coming months.
- Finally, Father noted that Lisle and Susan's terms were ending. He noted that Debbie's term also ended up that she planned to "re-up." Thus we are in need of two new members. The Council then discussed the appropriate time for the discernment process to find new members. It was agreed that mid to late August was the best time so the new people would be available to start at the September meeting. Chuck reminded everyone to be talent scouts for the Council.
- Kevin then asked about bringing high school students on and the Council discussed the best way to use them. It was agreed that we might structure certain meetings next year such that we can use the high school students for brainstorming and/or have them contribute to certain agenda items. People suggested we look at the youth group and the high school lectors as a good place to find engaged youth.

II. Finance Report -- Maureen

- Maureen indicated that the latest finance committee meeting involved passing the new budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. She noted that there are no significant changes to either revenues or expenditures and that all changes are reasonable changes that come with cost of living and inflation adjustments.
- Some discussion then followed on the school subsidy, with Father noting that the school operates much more independently now and that St. John and Nativity both give equal amounts per student (unlike in past years.)

III. Ministry Report -- Mary

- Mary highlighted several upcoming important events including Welcome Sunday (to take place on October 1st and the Deaf Community mass to take place on October 29th).

- Mary also noted that St. John's would be a part of the social services committee of the Catholic Coalition for Immigrants and Refugees, which is a new organization within the diocese to organize the commitments the diocese has made to refugees and immigrants.
- Mary noted that St. John's now has an online registration process – we have given up the paper registration. As a part of the new online registration process, a new intake process was designed which includes a individualized welcome packet (based on how the registrant answers the questions on the online form), a phone call from Mary on behalf of the staff so she can direct them to the right ministries if need be, and a later welcome from the Welcoming Committee.
- Mary indicated there would also be a new form for the Parish Census update (which will also hopefully be online this year) that will give the current information that the Parish has and ask parishioners to update.
- Finally, Mary disclosed that she is building a new section of the parish website to include information and forms for funeral and end-of-life decisions. She hopes this will allow the family members to both have more difficult decisions and to allow the staff to focus more on the grieving process and less of the nuts and bolts when meeting with grieving families.

IV. PPC Look Back Discussion – Chuck

- Chuck asked the PPC to look back on its accomplishments over the last year and discuss the successes and failures.
- Accomplishments: good discussions, a good level of communication between the staff and the parish, Fr. Ed's candor with the PPC, the PPC's candor with Fr. Ed, Fr. Ed's focus on the family and his welcoming nature and Mary and Father Ed's push to have us do more service both locally and globally.
- Failures:
 - We need to keep trying to find new ways to engage a diverse set of individuals to the church
 - While we have good discussions and come up with good ideas, we need to find better ways to prioritize our ideas. We seem to have a lack of conclusions.
 - The PPC ought to be more visible at the Welcome Sunday and Ministry Meetings specifically, but also more generally in the church. PPC should be listening more to the parishioners and bringing their concerns and questions back to the group.
- Areas of Concern to take up next year:
 - Our efforts next year should focus on "The Primacy of Sunday." Or: What do we need to do on Sunday to make people feel more connected to the church? Where do we meet our parishioners?
 - Some suggested that more small group meetings in which Father Ed and Mary (and maybe John Bowie!) could meet with individuals (like Carly's BBQ) might help make individuals feel more connected to the church. Perhaps we need to rethink the church picnic to find other ways for social gatherings at the church.
 - Mary mentioned we would all have homework over the summer. She will get a copy of the book *Everyone Leads: How to Revitalize the Catholic Church* and asks us all to read it.

V. Closing Prayer – Fr. Ed led the group in a closing prayer.

VI. Next Meeting will be held in September.

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Schofield