

SJC Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
November 13, 2018

Attendees: Fr. Ed, Mary Chollet, Kevin Haggerty, Maureen Wortz, Brian Larson, Debra Traini, Gerry Arango, Jared Shutt, Marianne Duffy, Neil Sheehan, Pat Lockwood, Carly Tolson and Lynne Schofield

Not in Attendance: Deanna Benner

Notes by Lynne

1. Opening Prayer by Mary
2. Pastor's Discussion
  - Update on the abuse scandal:
    - Archbishop Chaput started a compensation fund for victims outside of the legal system. Positives of this for victims is that they don't have to wait for politicians to decide about the statute of limitations, nor are they beholden to attorneys and their fees. George Mitchell and the attorneys who dispensed the 9/11 Victim's Compensation Fund are overseeing it. These individuals are not connected to the diocese, which gives them credibility. Chaput says money will come from monies on hand and selling of real estate properties. It will not come from Catholic Charities.
    - Prior rules around sexual abuse that were put into place in the early years did not apply to bishops, archbishops, or cardinals – only to priests. Bishops were to meet (as they do yearly) to discuss how to apply this to themselves. At the last minute, the Vatican told the US bishops to hold off on this meeting and to wait until the February meeting at the Vatican. The delay may be a good thing as it will possibly allow a more comprehensive view from the Vatican to guide the American bishops in their new rules and regulations and will ensure these changes aren't just good sound bites but ultimately empty.
    - Pope Francis has asked American bishops to go to a retreat in January. He wants bishops to take time to ponder and look into their souls prior to making decisions.
    - Pope Francis has fired (asked for/moved on letters of resignation) of 5-8 individuals.
    - Fr. Ed's take: Two undertones to all of this:
      - Some cardinals and bishops want Francis gone; others want him to stay. Some that want Francis gone are using the abuse scandal as an excuse to get rid of Francis. (Example: Sanctions that Benedict put on Cardinal McCarrick were never made public, so Francis didn't know these sanctions existed. But Francis was accused of allowing McCarrick to stay in power. But McCarrick had two different dioceses

that made settlements on his behalf. So how did he continue to rise up?)

- Other aspect is that the pro-Francis groups want the bishops, archbishops and cardinals to stop acting as royalty and to serve with humility, but those bishops, archbishops, and cardinals don't want to lose their power.
- Generally agreed that while the cardinals, bishops have not been able to monitor themselves, and so it makes sense for Francis to want to wait, but the optics maybe aren't helping. Many people think this is all "palace intrigue" to the average Catholic and so it seems as though people are "kicking the can down the road."

### 3. Parish Life

#### a. Mass Count

- Mass attendance is down, but most of the difference is at the 9:30. Possible factors: Last year we had five Sundays in October, and we also had Welcome Sunday in October. We also had summer PREP this year for the first time and may have lost some of those ~ 70 families who participated but don't attend Mass.
- Also, Fr. McNamara is going back to Venezuela for six months, leaving Fr. Ed with no other priest in residence. Fr. Yetman is also no longer serving. Fr. Brian can be here once maybe twice a month, so Fr. Ed may have 3-4 Saturdays/Sundays a month that he is alone. This raises the possibility of eliminating a weekend Mass, so Fr. Ed is not saying all of them.
- The Council hopes that this is not necessary. Fr. Ed is hoping to bring in another priest to live and assist with Masses.

#### b. Block Census/Collection Update

- Block census and collection has held steady though.

#### c. Coming Events

- i. December 1-2: Advent Festival and Fair Trade Sale
- ii. December 5 (7pm): Advent Evening of Reflection (Sr. Maria McCoy)
- iii. December 12 (7pm): Advent Penance Service
- iv. January 20 (3pm) MLK Gospel Fest

- Electronics recycling went very well. Will probably do again

#### d. Convent Update

- The 501(c)3 filing is underway for St. John's Parish Life Center, which will allow people to donate directly to this project, protecting their funds from any other use or claim.
- Kevin Haggerty has agreed to be the treasurer of the 501(c)3.
- Susan Hackett has agreed to serve as secretary.

- The site is being cleaned and remediated, which the parish will have to do regardless of whether the building is renovated or razed.
- A new feasibility study is planned, since the project has been scaled down and the cost sharply reduced.

e. Christmas

- Look for the new St. John car magnets!

4. Suggested for discussion

a. Interfaith service/need for security following Pittsburgh shootings (Neil)

- Mary went to a conference securing sacred spaces. Main advice is if you see something, say something and to know your congregation. Question becomes, “Is there a way to tell people that?” How do we welcome outsiders while still knowing how to stay safe? And how do we meet the needs of people who are struggling? If you think you see a weapon, you have to go to an usher and have them call 911.
- Balancing service and security is a challenge.

b. Mental Health First Aid (Maureen)

- Instructor described it as similar to CPR for a heart attack except for mental health. Training was helpful to know a person is in crises. It gave a list of questions and resources. Maureen praised the training.
- The session was well attended, and participants found it valuable. They suggested it be offered again.

c. Pew cards with prayer responses were removed from the pews, as the staff and Father felt they were no longer needed. But parishioners want them, so they will be replaced.

5. Closing Prayer by Mary (for Deanna)