

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 3, 2013

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Maria Carrion, Bill Doerr, Mimi Hunter, Georgann Lautner, Marisa Nieto, Sue Papajcik, Andrew Serfas, and Mary Westerhold.

ABSENT: Adam Milburn, Becky Bradley, Deacon Dan Corbett, and Bob Ribbing.

We opened this evening's meeting with the readings from the 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time which speak of courage found in faith; talks of Abraham's patience in waiting for God's promises, and; the parable that teaches the consequences of being watchful vs. being complacent.

Father asked what we would preach on this Sunday. Robin said we should always be responsible no matter who is watching. She said she was asked once that if you do something bad and don't get caught, is it bad? Father imagined the two way mirror, others talked of cameras everywhere. Someone is always watching.

Mimi talked about a commercial on TV for a church where this little, old lady asks her audience, "Are you ready?" Are we ready to meet Jesus? Father relayed a news story where a surveillance camera at a school gym caught a man having a heart attack while playing basketball. It showed how his teammates rallied to his aid with a defibrillator, CPR and calling for emergency services. The camera also caught the man's teammates taking a knee after the paramedics left with the man and offering a prayer for his recovery. The news story was showing the heart attack victim watching this video and his emotional reaction to it.

Andrew stated that we shouldn't become complacent. We must always be ready. Father Jeff said he may tie this theme in with the theme of one of his homilies a couple of weeks ago—we can't change God's mind. He has a plan. So why do we pray then? We pray to build our relationship with God—to gather strength. We may not change His mind, but we can change the way we react to tough situations. You may not get what you want from God, but you get all that you need from Him to be able to deal with whatever life throws at you.

Robin asked how to deal with people who ask about intercessory prayer. If no matter how hard we pray the outcome is already determined, what is the point? It's human nature to expect outcomes to be bad. We pray that they won't and that the outcomes will be good. It's the time in between that becomes crucial—our asking, praying and our reaction to the result—good or bad. Marissa is grateful for the freedom to ask—pray—and all the while learning to accept God's will.

Maria asked, "How do we pray for our enemies?" Mimi said we need to remind ourselves that we are all God's creations. Pray that He will help you see the good in everyone. Bill said that sometimes, though, you just have to kick off the dust. Sometimes the best thing to do is to avoid encounters with those you just can't see eye to eye with and those who manage to lead you down a wrong path.

PASTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Masses for the Feast of the Assumption on August 14/15 are as follows: 6:45pm on the Vigil and 8am and 10:15am on the Feast Day. The 10:15 mass will be the school Mass.

Our Parish school has enrolled 211 students in K-8. Pre-K has 51 students. Father McGivney High School has 20 sophomores (3 from St. Boniface) and 32 freshmen (7 from St. Boniface)

On August 21st SIUE will have a student orientation and welcome. Jill and Robin will be there to offer information about and invite students to St. Boniface.

The opening Mass for PSR will be Wednesday, August 28th at 6:45pm.

We are blessed and gratefully welcome new staff members: Tim Quinn as our youth choir director; Mark Schapman as our adult choir director and cantor training, and; Robin Black-Rubenstein as our Pastoral Associate. These three have hit the ground running and have made progress in their positions. The position for the Young Adult Campus Minister has not yet been filled, but there is a promising interview with a prospect on Thursday.

Our annual auction is to be held at SIUE on September 21st.

The DDCW Convention will be held here at St. Boniface on October 8th. They will have speakers, and Bishop Paprocki will have Mass. The group has requested the school choir to perform.

We have raised almost \$90,000 in our Capital Campaign Improvement Fund. The gym floor and bleachers, the roof, the condenser, and the porch as well as two clocks have been funded by these generous donations. We may need to campaign again next summer for tuck pointing of the steeple and south side of the church.

REPORTS

SOCIAL JUSTICE

No report since Deacon Dan is on vacation.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Robin Black-Rubenstein introduced herself. Much of her past experience and credentials were presented in the bulletin during the summer. She has been on the job for a month and has been very active in her new position. Robin stated that she is here to serve. She has presided over three communion services last week in Father Jeff's and Deacon Dan's absence and has accompanied Tom Orhen on his visitation ministry to one of the nursing homes.

She has started following up with new parishioners by phone and email and is planning a meet and greet gathering. Some assistance in this ministry is welcome. Her duties will include among other things a weekly column in the bulletin as well as planning Theology on Tap. She will be meeting with a group of young adults soon to plan the topics. Father Jeff will be their first presenter.

Robin is also working on the formation of a bereavement ministry that will provide hospitality for visitations and funerals.

REPORTS

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE (continued)

In the short month that she has been here, Robin has made much progress with that long laundry list of a job description we made for her. We are so very blessed to have so much energy and talent with the assistance of the Holy Spirit at work in our parish.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Andrew gave his last report as our young adult representative. He has graduated from high school and is moving on to college.

Andrew told us about his experience this year at the One Bread One Cup Conference at St. Meinrad Archabbey. His brother, Ryan, and sister, Lauren and some of their friends also attended the same conference. He described how “awesome” it was to enter into the Benedictine experience—to dive into their faith as a part of a community of faith. They participated daily in the Liturgy of Hours. The theme of the conference this year was Word, Sacrament and Mission. As usual, each participant picked a certain liturgical ministry to concentrate on for the five day conference. Since this would be his last opportunity to participate, Andrew wanted to challenge himself to be more outward. He chose preaching.

They were able to talk to the monks—which was “really cool”—and had the usual talent show and Frisbee contest. There was a good balance of serious discussion and just plain fun. He talked about the awesome penance service that was held in the Archabbey that was both spiritual and inspirational.

Andrew described St. Meinrads as “a place of perfect peace.” As the participants near the end of their stay there, the Benedictines prepare them to return to the “real world”. They teach them how to remain in the mindset of St. Meinrad. Their experience is motivating and inspiring, but life has a way of wearing down and changing priorities. This year Andrew went in with certain goals and a desire to be more faithful. He feels he has come away with more strength and courage. It has caused a growth of faith as a family.

He gives much credit to Father Jeff who recommended him three years ago to go to the One Bread One Cup Conference. Andrew feels it is important that youth experience living a life in this sort of atmosphere. He values that feeling of hospitality and love shown to them on that journey and hopes to share that with others. He has a responsibility to live his faith and show his faith to others. One Bread One Cup shows you what faith should be and what it can be. He recommends this program and the experience for all youth. Andrew also plans to apply to be an intern at the conferences next summer.

We are all so impressed and inspired by the faith and conviction of this particular young man. He is a great example for young and old alike. All are agreed, Andrew, we will miss you at our table every month! God’s many blessings go with you as you head off to college.

BUSINESS

EVANGELIZATION AND WORSHIP

Father Jeff received a phone call from Dierberg's who was proposing to put our logo on their shopping bags. By the time he responded to the offer Eden Church had already accepted. Dierberg's contacted Eden to see if they would be willing to share the space with us, and they consented. As a result, for a cost of \$260 our logo will appear on 250,000 grocery bags.

The Annual Rummage Sale netted \$10,000. Added to the existing \$14,000 in that account we now have enough money to purchase an electronic sign for the busy Vandalia/Buchanan corner.

The weekend of September 7/8 Father will be preaching about vocations and the Called by Name Program. Father will ask people if they are interested or know anyone interested in the priesthood and the religious life that he can contact.

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH

November 22nd marks the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the big church. We began discussing and planning how to celebrate the occasion. The week will begin on November 17th with the annual St. Cecelia Sings concert. We can somehow incorporate the anniversary there. Father mentioned that one of the most popular nights with RCIA is Father's tour of the church. Perhaps we could have a couple of opportunities for tours. Music, parties, services were discussed.

How do we let people know, and how do we use this to evangelize? New banners. Open house to the public with a tour, of course. Speaker—What it means to be a Church. Advertise our anniversary activities in other church bulletins and in the diocesan newspaper. Invite parish and public in kind. All are welcome!

The tentative plan:

Sunday, November 17th: St. Cecelia Sings followed by fellowship.

Monday, November 18th: Probably nothing due to RCIA.

Tuesday, November 19th: Open house to the community with a tour and refreshments.

Wednesday, November 20th: Probably nothing due to PSR

Thursday, November 21st: Interdenominational service with local pastors followed by wine and hors d'oeuvres.

Friday, November 22nd (the actual anniversary): Begin with mass in the morning, Eucharistic adoration during the day ending with Benediction. This would be followed by a party with snacks, wine, beer, and a band. Bill with check with Joe Catalano about the band—something light for background music. We could also play the video from the Dedication.

Saturday and Sunday, November 23/24: Fellowship weekend.

We talked about incorporating a food drive for the Glen-Ed Pantry with this week's activities.

Bill and Father will also look into getting T-shirts for the occasion. We need to think of a slogan and design somehow incorporating "10". We can sell them for \$1 to the parish school students and PSR students. We will have them available for others to purchase at full price.

BUSINESS

LENTEN PARISH MISSION

Father Jeff and Robin are researching options for a parish mission during Lent. We had talked about doing a mission this fall, but Lent is a more appropriate time, and we have the anniversary celebration in the fall.

HISPANIC COMMUNITY MASSES

Father Carlos is taking some time off. As a result, we are left without a Spanish speaking priest. The priests at SLU and the Shrine who could do this are already committed elsewhere. Our Hispanic members will be discussing Mass times so we can find a priest who can accommodate their need. Father Jeff stated that there are Sisters in Springfield who can help with catechesis and marriage preparation. For now, Father requested we all pray for guidance and a priest who can serve our Hispanic community.

We also discussed the fact that the three year term on the Council is up for Bill, Bob, and Georgann. Father said no one is leaving until after the Dedication anniversary, but he will start searching for replacements. However, this writer has requested to remain on the Council, in the capacity of secretary. Call me crazy, but I really like this job! Thanks for allowing me stay!!

Our next meeting is September 3rd.

Father ended the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner