

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Becky Bradley, Deacon Dan Corbett, Bill Doerr, Mimi Hunter, Jim Jatcko, Georgann Lautner, and Mary Westerhold.

ABSENT: Adam Milburn, Maria Carrion , Marisa Nieto, Bob Ribbing, and Sue Papajcik.

Father Jeff introduced our new council member, Jim Jatcko. Emily Gates also asked to serve and will be joining us, too. After quick introductions around the table Deacon Dan read the Gospel for the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time. In this passage from Luke, Jesus talks of hating things of this world in order to become his disciple. He talks of planning and building of life. He teaches that negotiating a settlement is often better than going to war.

Father's first thought was to recent events in Syria. Can you negotiate peace with someone who kills his own people? Mimi talked about the use of the word "hate" as Jesus spoke of needing to hate our parents, siblings, spouses. What he means is we should put God ahead of all our relationships no matter how unpopular it makes us with our family and friends.

Robin referred to the passage that speaks of not starting a project without careful planning. We should finish our "projects." We should have the ability to change directions to meet a goal. We have to stick it out and finish what we start. We shouldn't feel that God has abandoned us in our endeavors. We may have a plan but so does God.

Jim finds, in these words, the need to renounce our possessions. Whatever we are holding on to or whatever we are distracted by are the things that are holding us back. We pass up so many spiritual opportunities because of the stuff in life that we think is important.

Father Jeff recently met with Teresa Morrison to discuss funeral arrangements for her father, Max Bratten. Teresa, whose mother passed away last year, said she was angry after the loss of her mom. But with her dad's passing she felt that their lives are now complete. Knowing Max and Rosemary personally, Father knew how giving they were. They took care of everyone—friends, family, strangers—and ended up with few "things" for themselves. They were satisfied knowing that others were well taken care of. They knew and accepted the price of discipleship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Danielle Schroeder has been hired and has already begun working as our Youth and Young Adult Campus Minister. She will take care of our Tower Teens and Steeple People programs. Her bio has appeared in the bulletin over the past few weeks. In addition, she is Robin's daughter. Mary was on the committee that interviewed with Danielle and described her as enthusiastic, good with kids, and ready to take on the challenges of the position. She is currently working on the trip to Washington D.C. early in 2014 and will be working on the One Bread One Cup conference for next summer.

Called by Name Program is scheduled for this weekend, September 7th and 8th. People will be asked to submit names of those they think are good candidates or have shown an interest in the priesthood and religious life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

The annual Dinner Auction is scheduled for September 21st at SIUE.

The DCCCW Convention will be held this year at St. Boniface on October 8th. Bishop Paprocki will offer Mass. There is more information on these last two items in the bulletin.

The St. Boniface School Choir will perform on Catholic Radio on September 27th at 10 a.m.

Father McGivney High School news. Father recently celebrated Mass at FMCHS. They have 51 students enrolled, and letters of intent are already coming in for 2014. Some parents with kids in public school have inquired about switching to McGivney at the semester. There have been a couple of very favorable articles about the school in the Alton Telegraph and the Belleville News Democrat. The Intelligencer is planning a story soon, too. Mimi asked about building a new school as it is apparent that they will soon grow out of their quarters at St. John Newman School. Father said that they are in the discussion mode about a campaign.

Our Parish School has 211 enrolled K through 8. We have a great staff of hardworking and caring teachers and administrators. We are very fortunate to have Sr. Anna and Sr. Kathleen Ann and their educational expertise.

REPORTS

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Deacon Dan reported that he and Robin B-R are exploring different ways of approaching our parishioners to determine if there is an interest in undertaking a Social Justice initiative. He feels there is very little "new blood" coming into leadership in the parish through the "lets form a committee" model.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE REPORT

Robin reported there has been a good response to the Adult Faith Formation classes being offered this fall. ***Longing for the Holy*** will begin meeting September 18th on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings. There are about 23 people signed up. She will enhance the program with some videos and other books. ***Psalms: The School of Prayer*** is being offered on Sundays between the 8:15 and 10:15 Masses, has about 15 or 16 signed up and begins September 29th.

She continues to work on the Bereavement Ministry.

Theology on Tap has its schedule lined up through December. Watch the bulletin for their schedule of events.

The New Parishioners Welcoming had more volunteers than new parishioners in attendance. Two new families were there. Jim is also on this committee and reported everyone had a good time. Robin continues to contact our new members.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE REPORT (continued)

Lenten Parish Mission. Robin gave us homework in the form of an excellent presentation of five different presenters with a variety of topics. Father expressed a desire to focus on spirituality. Robin pointed out that the Vincentian program best fits that topic. She also had an outline on “How to Organize a Parish Mission.” According to this plan, if we intend to have this mission in early February, we need to be planning it now. Many of the presenters are already booked up well into 2014. The longer we wait, the fewer our options.

The outline also suggested choosing a theme. Jim asked, “What are the needs of the Parish?” Father responded that this council has been trying to focus on evangelization. How do we evangelize when we fear not having *all* the answers. Father recommended evangelization be our theme and focus. He also suggested a three day mission on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mary reminded us that the last mission in 2009 was also offered in the morning for those who couldn’t attend the evening sessions and also a program for the parish school. Deacon Dan agreed with the evangelization topic, but in the sense to help bring back parishioners that have fallen away or don’t attend Mass regularly.

Jim and Mimi volunteered to be on this subcommittee. They will—with the help of others—present their recommendations to Father Jeff who will make the final decision. Father also suggested asking Alan and Kathy Ratkewitz to be on the committee because they were the key planners of the 2009 mission with the Redemptorist priests.

BUSINESS

PLANS FOR THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE BIG CHURCH

Three committees were formed. Father urged the committee chairpersons to solicit the help of other parishioners. Everyone is invited to be involved in planning this week long event.

The Social Committee will be co-chaired by Bill Doerr and Becky Bradley. They will be in charge of refreshments and entertainment—especially for the Big Party for the Big church on Friday. Bill has arranged for a string and flute combo for light background music. “Heavy hors d’oeuvres,” beer, wine and soda will be served, and plan for about 300 people. For the church tour on Tuesday, we talked about serving sweet treats—cookies, cupcakes—something to drink. Serving pretzels and root beer was at this function was also discussed.

The Spiritual/Faith Formation Committee will be chaired by Robin. Father said he wanted Jill on this committee also. Deacon Dan will help out here, also. Friday will begin with Mass followed by Eucharistic adoration. Father suggested each hour should have a different focus—world peace, marriage, right to life, etc. Then at 6:30 pm there will be a prayer service and Benediction. Afterwards, party.

The Marketing/Promotion Committee will be chaired by Jim and Mary. Barb Pizzini joined the meeting to discuss t-shirts for the event. The school kids will get their t-shirts free, and adults will pay a nominal charge. Barb had some designs in mind. I think we settled on a gray shirt with black and white images and writing. Robin reminded us to be socially just in selecting the t-shirt manufacturer and still be sensitive to the price. Father will check in to what was ordered when we had the Evergreen t-shirts. He suggested ordering 1000 t’s. Also, with it being “that time of year,” we should have raffle calendars available for purchase at all events.

Before our meeting concluded, Father mentioned that he would like to offer and teach a class in the future based on Imbued with the Spirit of the Liturgy. He offered the book for us to read and recommend.

Our meeting was concluded with a prayer to our Holy Mother.

Our next meeting will be October 1st.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner