

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 1, 2013**

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Becky Bradley, Deacon Dan Corbett, Bill Doerr, Emily Gates, Georgann Lautner, Marisa Nieto, Sue Papajcik, & Mary Westerhold.

ABSENT: Maria Carrion, Mimi Hunter, Jim Jatcko, Adam Milburn and Bob Ribbing.

GUESTS: Alan and Kathy Ratkewitz

Before our prayer and reflection we welcomed our new member, Emily Gates. Father introduced her as the person who started our parish Circle of Moms group. Emily then gave some more of her history. Alan and Kathy introduced themselves, too. They will be chairing the organization of our parish mission in February 2014.

The readings were for the 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the first reading we find the prophet, Habakkuk crying out for help in the midst of violence and misery. God reminds him that justice will prevail to those whose faith is strong. In the second reading Paul reminds Timothy to be brave in his testimony and to draw on the strength of God and the Holy Spirit. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells the apostles that with true faith, all things are possible. We each have a unique role in God's plan.

Father Jeff said the first reading reminded him of the top story on this evenings news—the government shutdown—“strife, clamorous discord.” Robin spoke to the positive attitude of the second reading. Although we may grow impatient that it seems that God isn't answering us, we should have faith and trust in the Spirit that dwells within us. Marisa felt that the “spirit of . . . self-control” is something important to especially stress to our young people. God's strength is there for us to draw on anytime. The line about the “spirit of cowardice” spoke to Bill. We are often ashamed or afraid to reveal our faith and beliefs. There are times Catholics don't want to admit their religion because of the bombardment of judgments and stereotypes that exist in our society. Deacon Dan spoke of the spirit of power and . . . self-control to have the courage by to turn away from demeaning behavior. An example would be walking away from someone who is telling an off-color joke. Don't participate or respond to evil actions.

**ANNOUCEMENTS**

The Golf Outing was very successful as it made \$21k. The Annual Dinner/Auction was a success, too, but the final numbers are not available yet.

The decision has been made to cancel the Italian Fest this year. Last year's event only netted \$2000. That's a lot of planning, work and volunteer hours for so little profit. The chairpersons of this event are discussing making this part of Bonifest. That would offer an option to the fried bill of fare. Perhaps a game of BINGO would be offered, too.

DCCW Convention will be held at here on October 8<sup>th</sup>. The details have been in the bulletin.

FMCHS Updates. The campaign teams have been meeting and training the team members. The big push here at St. Boniface will be the second weekend of December. We will more news on this in the next couple of weeks. Our parish goal is \$1.7 million.

Parish School Playground Update. The rocks in the playground areas are damaging our new gym floor. The process to replace the rock with a new base and rubberized material will cost about \$30K. While the work will begin on part of the areas involved, we will probably include it in our improvement campaign next summer so we can complete the project.

The Spanish Mass has been moved to Sundays at 12:15. Father reported that attendance is up greatly. Father Dave from St. Mary's in Alton is officiating and is very pleased to have this opportunity.

## **PARISH MISSION**

At this point we jumped ahead to BUSINESS and to the Parish Mission in which Alan and Kathy will be instrumental in organizing. They chaired the last parish mission and did a wonderful job. Robin reported that Father Frank Disiano will lead the mission to be held February 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. He is a Paulist Father from Washington D.C. who specializes in evangelization. He is humbled and excited about doing our mission. For more information on the Paulists and Father Disiano, go to [fpdesiano.com](http://fpdesiano.com). There is a biographical section, and some of his homilies are available. He will preach at the weekend Masses February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. His mission will include a 9am Mass and session afterwards. He will also be at a school Mass and follow up with about a one hour session with the kids. He will also reach out to SIU-E students.

Alan presented sign-up sheets for the various committees—promotions and mailings, childcare, transportation, refreshments, etc. The first meeting will be Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the church office conference room. He explained that this first phase of planning will go to about mid-November. We take a break for the holidays and hit the ground running after the first of the year. In this first phase we really need to get the pamphlet together and have it ready for January mailing. Later we could do a phone blast inviting the parishioners to the Mission.

Kathy and Alan recommended that we get the school, PSR and everyone in the parish involved. At the last mission we had opened the preschool area for childcare. One of the teachers was there with some certified caregivers and volunteer help. Snacks were provided for the kids. We will have simple refreshments after each session. Perhaps our Funeral Lunch Volunteers could help serving food.

As they were excused they reminded us that our mission is only as successful as the effort put behind it. We appreciate all the work, expertise and guidance they have and will continue to provide to make this a memorable event.

## **REPORTS**

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Deacon Dan deferred to Robin who reported that we will be offering a survey to our parishioners to find out what they feel is needed to serve our parish and our community. What can we do to reach out? What do we *want* to do to reach out? The survey will be administered on-line.

However, for our parishioners who don't have on-line access, we will provide paper surveys to be completed.

#### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Robin reported that about 39 people are attending the two adult groups—Longing for the Holy and Psalms: The School of Prayer. There are about 40 people in RCIA. The Martha and Mary group is also well attended.

The Bereavement Committee will soon be collecting pictures for All Souls Day.

“Beginning the first Tuesday in November St. Boniface will offer a grief support program “After Care”. This grief support group is open to anyone in the area. This is a peer support group that is facilitated by bereavement ministers who have experienced losses in their lives and have received training to effectively and sensitively facilitate the group. The group members will join together to pray, reflect and share their experiences. The group will meet at St. Boniface the first Tuesday of every month from 8:45 (after morning Mass)- 9:45a.m. and also in the evening from 5:15 – 6:15 p.m.” (Taken from the bulletin—I couldn't have said it better)

Another welcoming event will be planned soon for new parishioners.

#### YOUTH MINISTRY

Father Jeff reported that Danielle met with Steeple People and Tower Teens. She was impressed with the high schoolers. They will be moving the meeting times around for these groups so they can meet earlier in the afternoon and still have time in the evening to finish their homework.

#### BUSINESS

##### **10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE BIG CHURCH**

Father Jeff made an executive decision—no t-shirts. They were not cost effective. We are very grateful for Barb Pizzini's design ideas and help with this project.

The events for the anniversary week were listed in the bulletin this weekend.

Sunday – November 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Cecelia Sing @ 2pm

Tuesday – November 19<sup>th</sup> – Liturgical and Historical Tour of the Big Church and Old Church

@7pm

Thursday – November 21<sup>st</sup> – Vatican Council II: 50 years after the council that changed everything! @ 7pm

Friday – November 22<sup>nd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of the Big Church

All Parish School Mass with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament @ 8am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9am to 6:30pm

Festive Evening Prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament @ 6:30pm

A Social following Benediction with food, drink, music and fellowship.

Saturday/Sunday – November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> – Christ the King of the Universe Masses

Sunday after 8:15 Mass – Celebration Garden Blessing

**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE BIG CHURCH** (continued)  
**SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Becky reported that she has a list of possibilities for appetizers from Catered Affair. Her estimate is based on 300 people. After some discussion, the menu was decided but for 150 people. We would provide linens and beverages and bartenders. The celebration will be advertised like a “party on the plaza”—liturgy and fellowship.

**SPITUAL/LITURGICAL REPORT**

Robin and Jill have been working on this aspect of the celebration. There will be 9 ½ hours of adoration with a different intention each hour—for the Church, parish, service people, Mary, vocations, social justice, healing, addiction/substance abuse/disordered behaviors. Father Jeff is working on the liturgical aspects.

Deacon Dan suggested a sacramental history with the tour. Tell how many baptisms at the baptismal font; how many weddings, etc. Show how active we are as a parish. Father Jeff will have Judy do the research and get those numbers.

**MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS REPORT**

There has been information in the bulletin. Mary and Jim will be meeting soon.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

I mentioned that evidently Father’s message of evangelization in his homilies must be getting through to people, because we have several practicing, faithful Catholics attending the RCIA sessions regularly. During the introductions many said they were there because they want to know more about their faith and the Church. They want to be able to talk about it and answer questions when asked. There were probably only 3 open seats at the tables Monday night. What a great group! Awesome participation! When we talk among ourselves it gets pretty noisy with all the chatter. You can feel the Holy Spirit at work in that room. Great fun!

Father mentioned that at a recent gathering of diocesan priests the Bishop didn’t use the word “evangelization” but stressed the growing of peoples’ spiritual lives. We’ve been talking about evangelization for the last year or so with little progress on our part—except from the pulpit. It may be a small step, but may the Holy Spirit continue to move the people.

We closed the meeting with a prayer to our Holy Mother.

Our next meeting will be November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Georgann Lautner