

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 3, 2014**

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Becky Bradley, Deacon Dan Corbett, Lacey Gelsinger, Mimi Hunter, Jim Jatcko, Georgann Lautner, Jeff Litterst, Sue Papajcik, Joe Raab, and Mary Westerhold.

ABSENT: Maria Carrion, Cindy Clark, Emily Gates, and Marisa Nieto.

Also present were Jill Griffin, our Director of Worship and Music, and Seminarian Mark Tracy, who is with us for the summer.

Our Scripture readings for Pentecost Sunday were read. The first reading from Acts describes the scene where the Apostles were gathered in a room that was suddenly filled with a “strong driving wind” that carried tongues of fire which came to rest on them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit. People of all sorts of different nationalities heard them speaking in their native languages and the Apostles began to proclaim the good news. In 1 Corinthians, Paul explains that as we have the Spirit within us, our gifts vary. We all have our own special talents “but the same God that produces them in everyone”. The body has many parts, but it is still one body. “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.” And in the Gospel from John, Jesus appears to his disciples for the last time, greets them in peace, and fills them with the Holy Spirit and opens their minds in understanding Scripture. He sends them out to proclaim the Word. What would you preach about this Sunday?

Rather than referring so much to the readings for this Sunday, Mimi focused on the Responsorial Psalm. In Psalm 104 it says, “If you take away their breath, they perish... When you send forth your spirit, they are created and you renew the face of the earth.” She said the theme should be renewal. Summer is a time of vacations, relaxing, and reconnecting with family and friends. As a Church, we are in a state of renewal—in the broad sense with the New Evangelization and locally with our new program, Christ Renews his Parish (CRHP).

Jim talked about his experience working with the Olympic Games in Atlanta and being around Christians from all over the world. He realized no matter where we are from or where we are, we are all of the one body of Christ.

Mary talked about how some people observe the service of others and say they could never do *that*. They need to see that they have their own gifts and talents to share and can make a difference in other ways.

As we are wrapping up an event filled Easter season with special celebrations, feast days, First Communion, Confirmation, baptisms and, now, the wedding season is getting into full swing Father Jeff observed how the cultural cycle of holy days have evolved into secular holidays. People will get dressed up for these special days—Easter, First Communion, etc.—and go to church. These events along with weddings and baptisms, pull a group of nicely dressed folks that you don’t see again until Christmas or Easter and sometimes, more sadly, not until the next needed sacrament. How do we renew the Spirit and keep these people *wanting* to come back week after week for more? How do we return these cultural events back into the Spiritual events they were intended to be? Father talked about presenting a “what if” scenario. What if they scientifically, beyond a doubt, proved that God does not exist? The doors to all the churches would be closed. Scripture wouldn’t be studied. What’s the point? There is no

God. Father guarantees that people would still want to be married in the church. Life events, weddings, baptisms, funerals, would still fill the pews.

Robin recently attended the National Catechetical Conference where they talked about how to talk about your stories of faith—how to witness. Deacon Dan talked about how the Spirit comes to us in many models. The Spirit is always present.

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. It is a season of renewal. The Holy Spirit is “a sweet guest of our souls... without it I am nothing.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Totus Tuus (Totally Yours)—a week-long Catholic summer parish mission for youth presented by young people for those in 1st through 12th grades will be held here June 15-20. There are more details in the bulletin. This event has been organized by Jill and Robin with some help from others.

We welcomed our Seminarian, Mark Tracy. He is here for the summer to witness, learn and relax.

Vacation Bible School—July 21-24

Rummage Sale—July 25-26

Corpus Christi Procession. Will take place at the 8:15 am Mass on June 22.

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP). Leadership meeting-June 10 at 6:30pm—more on this later in these minutes

St. Boniface School Technology update. They are moving ahead with iPads for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. The iPads will be provided for the students to use with an option to buy them after 8th grade. If they don't want to buy them, the iPads can be traded in with Apple. The teachers are being trained. The cost of this project is \$28K of which we had \$10K. This will be a trial year.

More school news. The kitchen is being renovated. Separate AC and heating are being installed. All new stainless steel appliances have been donated. This is the last big upgrade to the school that needed to be done.

FMCHS Update. We are about \$400K short of goal with 2 parishes left to finish their campaigns. Father is pretty confident that this goal will be met. The school should be self-supporting in 5 years. There are 43 new incoming freshmen. New extracurricular activities will include cheerleading, boys' and girls' basketball, volleyball, and soccer, boys' baseball, cross country, track and field, and golf. They are looking for someone to coach the cheerleading squad. Jim mentioned that with the technology the students will be able to Skype into their classes in the event of bad weather.

Bonifest. Best crowds ever. They ran out of food and beer. The weather was great. The money will probably be about the same as last year. There were some volunteer issues—in lack of. Jeff talked about the need to keep our “graduating” families involved and re-engaging families that have graduated. He also talked of getting more of our younger families involved. This isn't just a school event. It's a PARISH event. You don't have to have a kid in the parish school to volunteer for Bonifest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS continued

Summer Reminders. Teutopolis will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary. The festivities to be held July 26th through August 2nd will include Mass with the Bishop and a pageant depicting the history of T-town. Father will post more on this event in the bulletin.

REPORTS

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Robin reported that a small group will be meeting on Wednesday nights after Mass to discuss the book, The Shack.

She has posted a few service opportunities in the bulletin and has had a decent response. Fifteen people from St. Boniface responded to help with Free Lunch Fridays. Anyone can come to this function for a free lunch. We had such a good turnout of volunteers that Immanuel Methodist Church asked if we would take the second Friday of the month to manage the event which involves preparing and serving the meal. The volunteers accepted the challenge. Photos of our first day at FLF will be posted in the bulletin and on the lobby TVs.

Another program associated with Immanuel Methodist Church is the SAK Program. Sack lunches are prepared daily and taken to the AME church on Aldrup Street to be distributed to kids on summer vacation.

The CHRP leadership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10th, from 6:30 to 8:30. Robin reported that we still need a few good men. The first retreat will be set up at this meeting. Father stressed the absolute necessity of this parish retreat program. We need to find our identity as a parish. The way to do that is to learn how to realize and share our own faith stories. We need to learn how to talk about our relationship with God.

Living the Eucharist. Our license has been applied for, and Robin is waiting for a catechetical grant. Robin will be contacting anyone who continues to run a small group (like Why Catholic) to facilitate this program. It will be held during Lent and continued during the next two Lenten seasons.

Robin recently attended the National Catechetical Conference. The two authors of the book Rebuilt were there as well as the author of Building Disciples.

Mark reported that he will be the guest speaker for Theology on Tap on June 26th from 7-9 pm in the Bona Lounge. His topic is Happiness. He talked about planning more events that will include prayer and fellowship and pizza and beer. Father suggested a road trip with the young adults to St. Meinrad in Indiana.

Robin showed us a sample of a bookmark with information about our parish—Mass times, special events, faith sharing opportunities, etc.—that we could use as a welcoming tool.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Deacon Dan talked about his Ministry of Blessing. One of our parishioners, Ron Schmidt, takes Deacon from farm to farm blessing their fields and praying for good weather and bountiful harvests. He also had the opportunity at the last all school Mass of this term to have the kids help him offer a blessing for

REPORTS/Social Justice

Father Jeff on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. He said this is yet another example of an important and holy event that almost went unnoticed, and that next year's anniversary should be made really special. All agreed. Pretzels and beer. . . root beer. . . funnel cakes. . . margaritas. . . . Sounds a little like Bonifest. Seriously, the wheels are turning for a nice celebration.

Deacon also talked about his involvement with the Diocesan Tribunal and the annulment process. He sees peoples' hunger to come back and their longing for the sacraments.

He spoke about his work with our local St. Vincent de Paul conference. This group is made up of members from our local parishes—St. Boniface, St. Cecelia, and St. Mary's. They help with rent and utilities and mostly with helping people purchase their needed medications. They have "adopted" a single-parent family and are sending the mother to college. What wonderful guidance this family is about to receive. Deacon Dan also mentioned that the group will be initiating two new members at their next meeting. Every meeting starts with prayer and meditation in regards to poverty.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Father Jeff said that we can't praise Jill enough for the work she does with the Music ministry here at St. Boniface. We are glad to have this opportunity to tell her how very grateful we are for the beautiful and inspiring presentations of music and worship she provides week after week. And now she has stepped up to work more with the youth program—specifically with Tower Teens, our Junior High/middle school group. Then in the fall, Father will take charge of the high schoolers and Steeple People. Father will meet with this group after the 5:15 Mass on Sundays. They will meet from September through March. He will stress to the congregation that parental participation with these two programs is essential.

Jill reported that some of our St. Boniface kids will be attending the One Bread One Cup Conference which is held annually at St. Meinrad's Abbey in Indiana. She explained that this is a five day summer workshop where young people are taught how take on leadership roles in the different liturgical aspects of the Mass. There is a core group that is going--and has been there before--and are burning to use their knowledge and faith to help with the junior high and middle school program. This core group is Maddie Litterst, Lauren and Ryan Serfas, and Kaitlyn Frick.

Jill also said that the lock in last month went really well. The kids had a good time, and the surveys that were completed afterwards were very positive. It was reported that a parent of one of the kids said that their child said it was a wonderful experience and couldn't praise it enough. For her it was a life changing experience.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Liturgy- Mary Westerhold
Finance Council- Cindy Clark
Social Justice- Deacon Dan
Adult Faith Formation- Mary Westerhold
Youth and Young Adult Ministry (PSR)- Father Jeff
Building and Grounds- Jeff Litterst
Marketing and Promotion- Jim Jatcko
Social (Fun Committee)- Emily Gates and Lacey Gelsinger

BUSINESS

CRHP Team. Father has approached some people he thought would be good fits for this ministry and has asked them about serving on this first team. He has found that people are afraid of the word “retreat”. He, again, stressed the importance of this program. Who do we know that would be interested—or “brave” enough—or confident to do this?

Capital Campaign Information. Father Jeff distributed a letter of us to review with the campaign’s vision statement. Cargill Associates has been selected to do the feasibility study. There will be a meeting on Thursday, June 5th with them. Cargill wants to interview 75 parishioners who have read this

Vision Statement which raises the awareness of our parish’s particular needs. The theme is “Always here...”The letter basically asks, “what do you think about your parish” and informs that “if the goals of a capital campaign could be met, it is very possible we could be debt free in three years and meet the needs of the Parish.” The letter includes a list of areas and items that need repairs and/or updating; of expansion opportunities, and; the cost of these projects. Jeff complimented that the letter is a frank and transparent statement of our needs. However, some people will want a more strategic vision of the Vandalia project. Joe also explained that in another capital campaign he had worked on they were having problems with people committing until they got a picture of the proposed project. Then, he said, the project really took off. Father said he had a couple of ideas in mind and could draw something up.

Party on the Plaza. Father Jeff will have the parish staff figure out a good date to have the Party on the Plaza since they know best what is already scheduled. It will be late summer or early fall. It will be a potluck, BYOB, and a band.

Pastoral Council Retreat. Father decided that our discussion on the book, REBUILT, is too much and too important to try to fit into our monthly meetings. Instead we will plan on a retreat-type meeting away from the church on a Sunday sometime in August or September.

Pastoral Concerns. This writer asked if there are any pamphlets available here or through the diocese that explain the RCIA program. I have had a few inquiries and although I try to explain the process they want to read about it. People sometimes need a “picture”—a visual, if you will. Father said Sister Kathleen Ann should have something. I will check with her. I also asked if we were still planning on updating our booklet “Outward Signs of Faith” which is “a guide to the Ministries of St. Boniface Parish.” Father said we are tabling that for now in lieu of more pressing matters.

We will not meet in July. We will get an email with the date of the next meeting.

Father ended the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner