

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2014**

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Becky Bradley, Cindy Clark , Lacey Gelsinger, Mimi Hunter, Jim Jatcko, Georgann Lautner, Jeff Litterst, Marisa Nieto, Sue Papajcik, and Mary Westerhold.

ABSENT: Maria Carrion, Deacon Dan Corbett, Emily Gates, and Joe Raab.

We began with the readings for the nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time. In the first reading from Kings we find Elijah expecting God to manifest Himself in the catastrophic events occurring before him. Yet He appears simply as a quiet whisper amid the chaos. In the second reading from Romans, Paul speaks of joining his “conscience with the Holy Spirit” which in turn joins him to Christ. The Gospel from Matthew tells us the well-known story of Jesus walking on the waters of a turbulent sea. He had earlier performed the miracle of the loaves and had dismissed his disciples and the crowds so he could be alone in the quiet to pray. As Jesus approached the boat he invited Peter to come to him. Faithfully, Peter steps from the boat and walks towards the Lord. As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus he approached without incident. But when Peter was distracted, fear and doubt crept in, and Peter began to sink. Even though Peter’s faith and trust in the Lord were weakened for that moment, Jesus caught hold of Peter confirming that he is always there to help. He’s always here to help us, too.

Mimi mentioned that in this busy, hectic world we live in it’s so difficult to be quiet. Jesus dismissed the disciples and the crowd so he could have some quiet time. We don’t give ourselves much opportunity to hear that quiet voice. Father, after watching the news before he came to this meeting, commented there is so much going on—so much turbulence in the world. He wanted to know how many of us had a busy day. Everyone raised they’re hands. He asked how many of us come to Mass to rest or get away. It was mentioned that even at Mass when it’s quiet that it’s hard to control our thoughts—life vs. spirit. Robin said that’s why she likes to sit close to the front. It keeps her focused. Cindy likes the 4 pm Mass on Christmas Eve because you have to get there so early to get a seat that it gives you more time to sit and think and pray. Mary said she goes for renewal as do others who think, “If I go to Mass I’ll feel better.” Jim mentioned how rushed people are. Hurry in. Hurry out. Make sure you park your car facing out so you can make a fast get-away after Mass. Father said he thinks some people are afraid to stop and listen for that quiet voice. It makes us face how we relate to ourselves; how we relate to others, and; how we relate to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Totus Tuus and Vacation Bible School. Both activities were well attended. Several of our young people helped out at both events. There is some discussion as to whether to do Totus Tuus every year or every other year. Jim said his daughter loved it. She really liked working with the Totus Tuus team.

Rummage Sale. Sheila and her gang brought in \$9400. Good job!

Parish School News. The kitchen was finished today, and ready to be moved into. Practically everything was donated. The junk room was cleared out. Some cabinets were installed as well as some lights and a sink. It will be used for concessions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

Parish School News. There are 223 students enrolled for the fall and more will be coming in January. We have a new school secretary. She comes to us from St. John Newman's in Maryville. Father says she is really good at her job and will be quite an asset to our school. All other faculty is returning. The iPads are here for 6, 7, and 8 grades. Personnel have been trained on them. The equipment is password secured with parental controls. This will be a trial and error year.

There will be 89 students at Fr. McGivney High School. The first day of school is August 14th. They will be meeting soon with the contractors to go over the plans for the new school. The official ground breaking will be September 22nd. Bishop Paprocki will be there. Father Jeff also mentioned that KSDK's Eye on St. Louis was in town to do a story on Edwardsville. He said they spent a lot of time in the City Park and St. Boniface was often in the background. They also went to FMCH and interviewed the principle. It was a good presentation.

Needed: 2 New Council Members. Joe Raab and his wife are moving to Houston soon, and Emily Gates has resigned due to other commitments and her busy schedule. So Father asked us to submit names for replacements.

Pastoral Council Retreat Day. Our retreat to discuss the book, Rebuilt, will be at King's House in Belleville on September 14th from 1 pm to 6 pm. Plan on going to Mass BEFORE the retreat.

Capital Campaign Feasibility Study Progress. There have been 200 responses to the survey. Cargill has interviewed 47 people. On September 11th, Steve with Cargill will present the results at the Finance Council meeting.

Father will be meeting with the Building and Grounds committee to discuss what to do with the property recently bought from Phil Schlemer.

Bishop Paprocki has selected 5 priests from our diocese—Father Jeff being one—to sit on a capital campaign task force and attend a stewardship conference in Wichita, Kansas. Father stated that the Wichita Diocese is a stewardship diocese. Each parish has a Stewardship Council that explains to its parishioners, "This is what you get. This is what you give" in your time, talent and treasures. They never have "capital campaigns", fundraisers, etc. Stewardship and the Church are the centers of their lives. People tithe, and their tithing takes care of all the expenses of the parishes, schools, and seminary. Mimi stated that our parish is growing, but you don't see that growth reflected in the collection count. Father said it has a lot to do with the age of the new members. Young people aren't disciplined in tithing. It's not a priority. We could spend much more time on this topic, but it is a major topic in the book, Rebuilt, and will be discussed at length at our retreat.

REPORTS

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE—Robin Black-Rubenstein

“The Gospels”. This is a four part series that will be presented at St. Boniface on consecutive Tuesday nights beginning September 2nd. The presenter is Fr. Sean Charles Martin. “The course is \$20 and qualifies for 10 hours of diocesan credit for catechists and teachers toward the intermediate level Gospels requirement with half hour follow-up discussion with Sister Kathleen Ann Mourisee, OSF and Robin Black-Rubenstein, MAPS.” This course is for everyone. Robin will be sending flyers to other churches and to the Belleville diocese. Father will take a copy of the flyer to the next deanery meeting.

Bible Series. There will be a Bible study focusing on the books of Ruth and of Jonah. This will be a 6 week series which will meet on Wednesday from 7:15 to 8:45 and Thursday morning after Mass and between Masses on Sunday mornings. The Wednesday/Thursday sessions will begin October 15th and the Sunday sessions will begin on October 26th.

Lectio Divina. (from the bulletin for Aug 10th) “Lectio Divina prayer and scripture reflection will be offered at St. Boniface this fall on the following dates from 9:30 – 11:45 a.m.:

September 5 & 19 – October 24 & 31 – November 7 & 21

This will be led by parishioners Laura Jones and Sue Deakos. Lectio Divina (Latin for Divine reading) is a traditional Benedictine practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God’s Word. It does not treat Scripture as texts to be studied, but as the Living Word. You may contact Robin Black-Rubenstein at the parish office or by email for more information.”

CRHP Retreat Program. There will be a meeting Thursday, August 7th to hear someone who has been to a CRHP retreat and how it has changed her life. Many of those who attended the initial meeting said that the overnight requirement is pretty much a deal breaker. At this August 7th meeting there will also be a presentation on the Koinonia (which is Greek for “communion or community”) program as an alternative to CHRP. This is retreat is not an overnigher.

Free Lunch Fridays. St. Boniface chairs the 2nd and 5th Fridays of the month. Lunch is served from 11-1 pm. They can always use an extra hand. Parishioners can also make donations to this program. Robin Hake has it set up for donations to the Free Lunch Fridays program to be reflected on the contribution statements.

SAK Program. Robin reported that Helen Rios has pretty much taken the reins on this program. They have people who volunteer regularly, and things are going well. They only have two more weeks left.

Adult Faith Formation Committee will be meeting soon. Robin is inviting members/leaders of existing small groups and remnants of the Why Catholic groups that still get together to a meeting about Living the Eucharist to be presented during Lent 2015.

Father Jeff asked how many of us know about these programs. If we as the Pastoral Council don't know about these things, how do we expect our parishioners to know about them and ultimately participate in them? Mimi stated that our parish simply is not accustomed to having so many opportunities. This is a phenomenon that we all attribute to Robin's energy, expertise, and zeal for faith formation. Sue suggested that Robin speak about these programs occasionally before Mass. Lacey suggested bullet points in the bulletin. Jim suggested sending information via email or text to our parishioners. He also suggested that instead of having Robin talk about the programs, have the people who are involved in the programs talk about them and tell their experiences. Jeff L. and Mary agreed that word of mouth and talking to people one on one about the opportunities we have here at St. Boniface for faith formation is an effective way of getting more people involved. Mary said that we have a parish that wants to do things for other people. They just need to know what's available.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Tower Teens. Jill will be giving Father a schedule for what she has planned for the Tower Teens. They plan to meet at a minimum of once a month. Some of the high school kids have volunteered to help Jill with this program.

Steeple People. Father Jeff will be meeting with our high school kids beginning sometime after September. This will be a mixture of catechesis and social time. Father has some one in mind to help him with this program. He also plans to stress the importance and necessity of parental cooperation and participation with this organization.

BUSINESS

Party on the Plaza. We had planned to have our Party on the Plaza on October 4th after the 4:15 pm Mass. However, Becky pointed out that that is Homecoming weekend. So we have rescheduled it for October 18th. It will be a potluck. The church will provide chicken, beer, wine and soft drinks.

Theology on Tap. Our seminarian, Mark Tracy, pretty much resurrected this program while he was here for the summer. Robin took a survey of what the group wanted. They would like to meet more often. They want speakers, social time and would like to start a prayer group. She will meet with the group to discuss how to proceed and determine topics.

Mary mentioned that the college kids could use a summer program. They are too young for Theology on Tap and too old for the teen groups. They generally don't have time because of studies or are away at school during the rest of the year and are feeling a little left out. A more social oriented program would be more to their liking.

Liturgical Ministers Meeting. Father is calling a meeting of the leaders of the different ministry groups to discuss liturgical presence. This will be September 29th. Father asked Mary to contact the various leaders. She said we have some pretty conscientious liturgical ministers. Some watch the schedule and see where there is the most need and plan their attendance so they can help fill in.

In other business, Robin suggested that we do something for Mary in October. She was with a group that was talking about visiting Marian shrines, about Mary-music, prayers and devotions to Mary and the rosary. She thought we should have a special night devoted to Mary.

Father Jeff brought up Bishop Paprocki's recent pastoral letter, "**Ars celebrandi et adorandi**", which speaks to "the art of celebrating the Eucharistic liturgy properly and adoring the Lord in the Eucharist devoutly." Among other issues, the Bishop requested that parishes should set aside a night for Eucharistic devotion. We discussed having it after the Wednesday evening Mass, but we would have to make the Mass time earlier. This may not be convenient for some folks, and this is the best attended weekday Mass. There doesn't seem to be a very good night for adoration since there always seems to be some activity going on in the church every night of the week. Father did, however, decide to have reconciliation after the Wednesday evening Mass beginning in September.

Father Dave from St. Mary's in Alton has been on vacation so the Spanish Mass has either been a communion service or had Father Jeff as their presider. Beginning soon, Father Steve Arisman, the Parochial Vicar from SS. Peter and Paul in Collinsville will be helping out a couple of times a month. He will start off saying the Mass in Spanish and will eventually present his homilies in Spanish as well.

We won't have a meeting in September since we are having our retreat. Father invited our two exiting members—Mimi and Becky—to participate in the retreat. He will also invite the two new members provided they have been chosen by then. He has invited the parish staff as well since so much of the book, Rebuilt, refers to their positions with the church.

Father ended the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner

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This is Wikipedia's definition of Koinonia:

Koinonia is a transliterated form of the Greek word, κοινωνία, which means communion, joint participation; the share which one has in anything, participation, a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, etc. It identifies the idealized state of fellowship and unity that should exist within the Christian church, the Body of Christ.