

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES NOVEMBER 4, 2014

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Maria Carrion, Deacon Dan Corbett, Rich Hahn, Arthur Langston, Georgann Lautner, Marisa Nieto, Sue Papajcik, Lauren Serfas, and Mary Westerhold.

ABSENTEES: Cindy Clark, Lacey Gelsing, Jim Jatcko, and Jeff Litterst.

Arthur, our newest member, introduced himself, and we in turn did the same. Welcome, Arthur!

Our readings for November 9th, the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, were read by Lauren, Georgann, and Rich. The first reading from Ezekiel talks about the temple and the water that flows from it that nourishes all that comes in contact with it. The second reading from 1 Corinthians, Paul calls us “God’s building” and we build on the foundation, Jesus Christ. Our treatment of the “temple”—good or bad—will return to us. The Gospel from John, is the familiar story of Jesus ridding the temple of the venders and money-changers. What would you preach about next Sunday?

Rich spoke about separating out our “marketplace” because it makes it difficult to find the “spiritual place” especially before and after Mass. Robin wondered that if we are the “building” of Christ, how are we treating our “building”, and where are we going with it? Father Jeff explained that in this Gospel story, Jesus is just arriving on the scene and is making himself known. People would come to temple and offer sacrifices. The venders outside the temple were selling items usually used as offerings to the temple. This was a way for the temple to maintain itself—much as we do now with selling raffle tickets, auction tickets, calendars, etc. Until people step up and support the parish with tithing we must support ourselves with fund raisers.

Rich said that if people truly sought and obtained that spiritual space they would seek to maintain it and generously support the physical church. He was upset by the “oh well” attitude in Rebuilt when parishioners who were truly devoted to that church were simply left by the wayside if they didn’t agree with the changes that were being made. We shouldn’t lose sight of the mission for the sake of the new. We need to build on the sacred space.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lucy Lights. We will be hanging the outside Christmas lights on December 6th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Georgann will be leading this group. The confirmation class will be invited to help and gain service hours.

Thanksgiving Eve Mass. November 26th at 6:45 p.m. Once again, people are invited to bring bread and wine intended for the next days' dinners to be blessed.

Christmas Masses. Eve: 4:15 pm and 10:15 pm. Day: 8:15 am.

Advent Penance Services. December 14th at 2pm at St. Boniface. December 18th at 7pm at St. Cecelia.

Parish Staff Christmas Celebration. December 13th after the 4:15 Mass in the Oak Room.

Pre Cana. January 31st at 9am to 4:15 pm.

Ministry Fair. January 10th-11th after Masses. Note: The Spanish Mass will be held in the Church since the Chapel is where the tables will be set up for the various groups. Georgann questioned whether or not we would be serving doughnuts like we did at the last ministry fair. I believe we agreed we would.(?) Later in the meeting we discussed putting a flier in the bulletin listing the various organizations and ministries at St. B and give everyone enough time to prepare their tables for the fair and save the date.

Saint Cecelia Sings. This has been cancelled due to lack of participation from other parishes.

Homecoming 2014/Auction, Dinner and Dance. Sue reported that this is set to go November 15th. The cost is \$45 which includes an all-night buffet and DJ. People are invited to dress as they did when they were in high school, or dress semi-dressy. She hopes we will all attend.

REPORTS

Young Adults and Youth Ministry. Father Jeff reported that about 30-35 teens are regularly attending Steeple People. The running theme at these meetings is identity. He plans to distribute the candles to them from the All Souls Masses and have them dedicate themselves in prayer to those who have passed away.

He also reported that about 25 middle-schoolers are attending Tower Teens. Jill Griffin is leading this group with the help of some of our high-schoolers, Lauren and Andrew Serfas, Maddie Litterst and Kaitlyn Frick.

SOCIAL JUSTICE. Robin reported on the following:

Theology on Tap. The upcoming topics will be educational pieces concerning social justice.

REPORTS/ Social Justice (continued)

Breakfast Ministry. Robin and some of our Steeple People helped cook and serve at breakfast for the needy in Granite City. While she was there she was told that there is a community collection of food from local merchants—some is fresh produce—and it is distributed weekly. They have a surplus, especially of bread, and wanted to know if we have a way to distribute. Robin will go and pick up this food and can use some of it for our Free Lunch Fridays. She wanted to know if anyone knew of any others who might be able to use some of this surplus. Marisa suggested that Father Steve in Collinsville may know of some needy families in his parish.

Parish Retreat/Koinonia. There is a meeting Thursday, November 6th in Granite City to discuss helping us to provide our first Koinonia. According to their email, the Granite City (Trinity) group is looking for people to help prepare, lead, and facilitate our retreat. Father asked for clarification. He thinks that whoever takes these roles would have had to have gone through Koinonia already. If that is the case, he suggested contacting Phil Daniels and Sue Vanelli. The Trinity group also said we will need a name for our Koinonia. Robin suggested STBK1 (St. Boniface Koinonia #1). We agreed that sounded good.

Living the Eucharist. This will be held during Lent of 2015. Robin will be meeting with small group leaders soon. We need to determine how many groups we anticipate so we have enough leaders. There will be a teen group, also, led by Lauren Serfas and, hopefully, Kaitlyn Frick. This program will have its own booth at the Ministry Fair.

Financial Peace University. Beginning January 11th this program will be offered to help people develop budgets. It will be held on Sunday afternoons and led by Nikki Bugger.

BUSINESS

Fellowship Weekend. We had a good turnout after all the Masses and the general consensus is that everyone enjoyed it. NOTE: We had too much cheese and not enough doughnuts. We could have gotten by with 2 cheese trays and probably another 4 dozen doughnuts (16 dozen all together). The number of pizzas ordered was just right. (I believe there were 16 pizzas) Another NOTE: we forgot to include the Spanish Mass. Maria and Marisa agreed that fellowship is routine for them. We will, however, provide treats at that Mass next time we have a fellowship weekend. With the holidays and then Lent our next Fellowship Weekend probably won't be until April unless you count the weekend of the Ministry Fair.

Reverence and Quiet Time for Prayer and Reflection before and after Mass. How do we address this issue? Our church is pretty rowdy before and after Masses. Talking in the church and in the gathering areas, kids running around up and down the aisles and up in the sanctuary and downstairs. Kids left to roam freely upstairs and downstairs before, during and after Masses. People congregate inside the church after Mass—especially by the choir area making it difficult to access the Mary statue for devotional prayer. Along with the noise and distractions, there are safety issues involved here, too.

BUSINESS/ Reverence and Quiet Time (continued)

Father plans to use this weekend's readings regarding caring for the sacred space to address these issues. Deacon Dan suggested that he take this opportunity to mention that there are multiple places in our church where special reverence should be shown. Father will address matters of safety—no running inside—and conversations only in the lobby/gathering areas of the church and then we should use inside voices. The ushers should also close the doors to keep the gathering area din out of the church. He will remind people that sacred things happen in the church.

Sidebar: Robin advised that the results of the Benedictine survey that was done over the summer are now available on the diocesan website.

“Outward Signs of Faith” Booklet. This refers to our booklet on stewardship and ways to share your time, talent and treasures at St. Boniface. Father said that many people don't want their names and/or phone numbers published so this will be the last year for our Parish Directory to have the names of our parishioners. He and Benna will be working with Georgann and Mary on our new directory which will incorporate a revised version of “Outward Signs of Faith.” We will be meeting Thursday, November 12th with the printer/publisher of our Directory. Mary still has much of the booklet's content stored electronically.

Rebuilt.

Parking Ministry. Father Jeff has talked to Dave Knetzer, the head of our ushers, and he has agreed to get a group together to take care of parking for the 4:15 pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

Ushers/Greeters. We really need ushers at the 10:15 Mass. A notice will be put in the bulletin and on the TV screens pleading for ushers, especially at this Mass.

Nursery. Our 10:15 Mass is crazy. Sue suggested that maybe this would be a good Mass to try the nursery. Father agreed but whoever runs this ministry would have to be a paid position with all the necessary daycare credentials, and would have to be there every week. We can't depend on our high school students to be responsible for the welfare of our kids. Mary suggested approaching our Circle of Moms group and see how they feel about the nursery idea and if they could staff it. It would basically be for toddlers age 1 through 3 or 4. Infants can be with the parents in church, and Children's Liturgy is for pre-K to second grade. Sue and Robin will talk to our Circle of Moms.

Café. Right now, our Fellowship is our “Café”.

Information/Help Desk. Ideally this will be for everything—information, selling calendars, raffle tickets, event tickets, scrip, etc. We still need to figure out the logistics.

Trunk or Treat was a great success. It was a beautiful night and everyone had a really good time. There were about 60 cars involved. And many, many Elsa's.

There will be no meeting in December.

Our next meeting will be January 5, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by,
Georgann Lautner