

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 3, 2015

ATTENDEES: Robin Black-Rubenstein, Maria Carrion, Cindy Clark, Deacon Dan Corbett, Lacey Gelsinger, Rich Hahn, Jim Jatcko, Arthur Langston, Georgann Lautner, Jeff Litterst, Lauren Serfas, and Mary Westerhold.

ABSENT: Father Jeff, Marisa Nieto, and Sue Papajcik.

In Father Jeff's absence, Robin led our meeting. Lauren read the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing Simon's mother-in-law who immediately got up and started waiting on her guests. It goes on to talk of many healings and Jesus' decision--after a time of quiet prayer--to move on to the next village to spread the Good News. Lacey then read the Reflection on the Gospel. It begged the question, "What are you thankful for?" We went around the table and shared our gratefulness for friends, families, opportunities to share special moments, expecting new arrivals, witness, safe travel, our freedom to serve, and a chance to relive a little of the past.

REPORTS

Deacon Dan

Deacon talked about some special events he had the pleasure of witnessing. One of our RCIA candidates—who Deacon describes as being “on fire” with the Spirit-- has rekindled the faith in her husband. Last Saturday after the 4:15 Mass, with their toddler present, Father Jeff blessed their marriage.

Deacon was also present for the Pre-Cana penance service last Saturday afternoon. He was struck by the participation of the other priests who came to offer reconciliation. He realized the gift given and that Father Jeff will, as he has in the past, reciprocate in the future when these other parishes have their communal penance services.

Deacon Dan stated that Ministry Fair proved successful for the St. Vincent DePaul Society. They had several people sign up with an interest in helping out.

Youth Ministry--Lauren Serfas

Tower Teens. Lauren and three other high schoolers along with Jill Griffin lead this youth group. There generally 12 to 15 middle school age participants. They are an energetic group. Lauren said the focus of the meetings has been on feeding the poor and caring for the homeless.

Steeple People. Father Jeff leads this group of young people of high school age. They started out with about 35 people, and their numbers have fallen to about 20. At their last gathering, as a way of focusing on the January anniversary of Roe vs Wade, they watched the video documentary called “40” which dealt with the abortion issue.

REPORTS (continued)

Youth Ministry--Lauren Serfas

Steeple People will be having evening prayer on Sunday evenings from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. during Lent. They will be in the Chapel. Lauren invited all the Council to attend. Georgann wondered if there was a way to get this message out to our congregation. These young people have been doing this every Advent and Lent for a couple of years now, and the response has been pretty weak. They do such a good job with the music and reflections. It is such a wonderful, prayerful preparation for Mass. Even though it is mentioned in Jill's column in the bulletin, it seems that not many people are seeing it. So Robin will make sure it gets into Father's column and in her column in the bulletin.

Lauren reported that both youth groups, as a joint effort, will be presenting a live Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 6th at 6 p.m. and on Sunday, March 15th at 7 p.m.

She also reported that she and a few others are planning on attending World Youth Day in 2016 in Krakow, Poland with Bishop Paprocki. With Jill's help, they have been holding and planning fund raisers to help defray some of the cost.

Chicken and BYOB Dance. (Robin reported for Sue Papajcik) This event is scheduled for Friday, February 13th. The response has been pretty slim for this, and the organizers will need to know by this weekend how many people plan to attend so the food can be ordered. So if there aren't enough people willing to commit and sign up, this event will be cancelled.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE—Robin Black-Rubenstein

Koinonia. Robin reported that STBK1 went very well. There were 26 people that signed up and 23 showed up. Most of the people who attended were people who are already involved in other ministries and groups in the church. The Granite City Koinonia group said they would help at our next one which is tentatively planned for the second weekend in September. Other schedules need to be checked before we can set a definite date—church availability, Father, Srs Anna and Kathleen Ann, Granite City Koinonia, etc. Robin read some of the comments of the participants. People were very favorable and glad they attended. Maria attended and stated that she was a little apprehensive at first and thought that the whole weekend would be too much. But, she said it was very good and the weekend went quickly. She is anxious to help organize the next one. Rich said "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times." His experience went from meaningful and very touching to some feelings of not being comfortable in participating in some of the activities. But he said he would recommend the experience.

Living the Eucharist. Registration has begun for this Lenten event. There are several opportunities to participate. Robin reported that there are 5 or 6 small groups stemming from the old Why Catholic groups; 8 new groups; and several groups participating from within their own ministries—like the pastoral cabinet, Martha and Mary's, Lectio Divina, our Hispanic community, St. Fiacre, etc. Lauren and Kaitlyn Frick will be hosting the youth group. Kayla and James Cowell will be hosting the young adults. Mary will be hosting a group on line through Facebook.

REPORTS (continued)

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE—Robin Black-Rubenstein

Free Lunch Fridays. Robin reported that this was the group that got the biggest response for her at the Ministry Fair. So many people have signed up now that they can probably work our St B Fridays in shifts.

Theology on Tap. The schedule is in the bulletin. That group has picked the topics they want to discuss and are then searching out speakers who can talk on these subjects. Deacon Dan will be the presenter at the next session being held this Thursday, February 5th. The topic—Why Can't We Eat Meat and Other Lenten Customs.

Pre-Cana. Jim talked about Pre-Cana that was held here last weekend. He said there were 34 couples there, some from as far away as Champaign and St. Louis. The day began with prayer and the Sacraments. They had several priests there for reconciliation. After lunch, the married couples from our parish gave their presentations. It was a great day inside and out. Thanks to our Pre Cana team: Jim and Nancy Jatcko, Jeff and Melissa Litterst, Dave and Susie Knetzer, Nate and Debbie Vuagniaux, Matt and Lauren Kerkemeyer, and Mike and Lisa Rolves.

Ministry Fair. We had a pretty good response to this event. Many people came into the Chapel for fellowship, doughnuts, coffee, and to peruse the various ministries and organizations. Several people signed up. Along with Benna in the process of getting these new volunteers in the Ministry Scheduler and still waiting for some groups to respond with their results and comments, I didn't have much to report. Mary shared her comments and concerns as she feels that Pastoral Council should be more involved in the planning and organizing aspects of the Fair. We should be coordinating more with Parish Office staff when we plan big functions like this so we can work together and not so much is put on office staff. Perhaps someone from the office staff could attend our Council meetings during these times.

Cindy suggested that maybe the Ministry Fair shouldn't be our only strategy to get people to volunteer. Perhaps we should have more one-on-one recruiting. Maybe we could spotlight a different ministry every month. We could have someone speak on a particular ministry before Mass and then have a FAQ/sign-up table after Mass. We agreed that this sounded like a good idea.

BUSINESS

Father Jeff's 20th Anniversary of Ordination Celebration. Father's anniversary is May 27th and although he may feel it's not necessary, we and others feel that this is an occasion to recognize with a celebration. He prefers to keep it simple—brauts and beer on the plaza. We talked about doing this after the 4:15 Mass on June 6th and celebrate, too, the Feast of St. Boniface (June 5th). We will discuss this more at our next meeting.

BUSINESS (continued)

24 Hours for the Lord. *From the Vatican website:*

The initiative entitled **24 Hours for the Lord** was received with great enthusiasm in 2014 and will be celebrated once again in **2015 on March 13-14.**

Pope Francis will preside at a **penitential celebration** in **St. Peter's Basilica** in order to place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the center of the Church's mission of the new evangelization.

The theme which will guide the reflection in 2015 is: **God rich in mercy** (Eph 2:4).

At the request of our Bishop, all parishes in this diocese will participate. We will do this in conjunction with St. Mary's, but almost everything will be here. Someone asked if we should invite St. Cecelia's, too. Robin will look into it. This day of prayer will begin at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 13th with exposition and St. Boniface Grade School Stations to follow. Exposition will end at 2 p.m. on Saturday March 14th. The biggest task will be making sure people scheduled to be here for the full 24 hours for Adoration. We will begin signing people up very soon. We hope that our Living the Eucharist groups and other various ministries and groups will help fill the schedule. The late evening and early morning hours will probably be the hardest to fill. We decided not to provide refreshments because our focus should be on the Eucharist. We should be thinking about whether or not to have hourly intentions. If so, we need to have our intentions ready for the next meeting. Deacon Dan suggested that we pray the Rosary with the Mysteries at some of the sessions. There was also a question as to where Adoration will be—church or chapel.

This is the schedule for the 24 hours of prayer:

- Friday
 - 2 p.m. Exposition followed by St. Boniface Grade School Stations of the Cross
 - 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. - Confessions
 - 6 p.m. - Adult Stations of the Cross
 - 7 p.m. – Adult Choir
 - 11 p.m. – Night Prayer
- Saturday
 - 6 a.m. – Morning Prayer
 - 9 a.m. to noon – Confession
 - 2 p.m. – Closing and Benediction

As a side note, there was some discussion before our meeting about last Saturday's 4:15 Mass. Because there was no 5:15 Mass scheduled last weekend, we had a lot of extra people at this Saturday Mass. Some of us had to deal with some pretty upset people because they had nowhere to sit, and the Chapel wasn't made available. We hope we can discuss this at our next meeting or at least before we have another similar situation. Perhaps we could schedule the Sunday 5:15 Mass earlier—3:30 or 4:00—so no one will miss Mass or the kick-off.

Robin led us in prayer to end our meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner