

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES MAY 5, 2015

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Deacon Dan Corbett, Mary Westerhold, Maria Carrion, Lacey Gelsinger, Marisa Nieto, Cindy Clark, and Jim Jatcko.

ABSENT: Lauren Serfas, Sue Papajcik, Jeff Litterst, Rich Hahn, and Arthur Langston.

Jim read the Gospel from the Sixth Sunday of Easter. Lacey read the reflection. In John's Gospel, Jesus says, "This I command you: love one another." Jesus chooses to love us and is unwilling to let us go. Do we choose to return that love? Do we follow His command to love one another?

Marisa said she explains to her children that going to Mass is not enough. You must open your heart to God. You do this in participation. Lacey said it's a comfort knowing that even though you may fall away and feel underserving of God's love, He always welcomes you back. This Gospel reminds Robin of conversion stories of people who have hit rock bottom and feel a presence—like a cat sitting and staring at you. Jesus is there waiting to take you back. Jim sees this as an action of acceptance—choosing to love as He loves. He sees a danger of falling into a state of complacency where we think we already love this way, but may not. Father said this is an instruction from Jesus to stay connected—as vine to branches—with love for one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

BONIFEST: May 22-23. Volunteers are still needed. Tickets are being sold. Pray for good weather.

PRIESTHOOD CELEBRATION/FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND: June 6th and 7th.

TOTUS TUUS: June 13-20.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: July 20-24.

RUMMAGE SALE: July 24-25. Sheila has quite an inventory built up at the yellow house. She will be setting up shop and selling some of her wares during Bonifest.

FATHER PAUL HABING: Father Pablo will arrive in July to take over the Spanish ministry which will reach out to the Hispanic community in the Alton Deanery. He will live in the rectory in Marine and will have some weekday Masses there including a Thursday evening Spanish Mass. There is also some discussion of starting a ministry to help people with improving their skills with the English language.

TOWER TEENS AND STEEPLE PEOPLE—Father Jeff

The two groups gathered last Sunday evening for the last session of before the summer break. Hot dogs were served, and everyone walked to Annie's for frozen custard. Attendance was better this year, but youth ministry is a work in progress that should be improved.

DEACON DAN

Deacon has been missing his ministry because of his recent foot surgery. He prefers serving Mass with Father over sitting in the pew. He is still very active in writing his column for the bulletin and held a baptism class last night with two couples. Deacon commented on our growing parish and the number of people who attend his monthly baptism classes.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE--Robin Black-Rubenstein

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Father Robert Barron's *Catholicism*: This group is meeting on Mondays at 6:30 and is in its second week. The program is being facilitated by the RCIA team and so far has been well attended.

Young Adult Ministry: This group usually meets on Monday nights and has been attending the *Catholicism* series. This is a faith filled group from which we could possibly pull some facilitators for the *Catholicism* classes. Robin wondered if this group might replace our Theology on Tap program--which is a licensed program for which we pay. Father Jeff stated he is preparing a letter to couples under 30 asking them to attend a meeting so he can find out what they want from the parish. He hopes to pull some leadership from them as well as reaching out to jump start the Theology on Tap program.

Father also mentioned that there are plans for McGivney to open its facilities on the weekends to provide an opportunity for local parishes to gather together.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Free Lunch Fridays: Robin reported that 93 people were served last Friday. This continues to be a vibrant ministry.

SAK Program: There will be information in this weekend's bulletin in regards to this program which provides lunches for kids over the summer vacation. People have already signed on to work with this program.

FATHER JEFF REPORT

Parish Directories: Our new directories were made available for pick up in the church starting last weekend.

Parish School: Father Jeff reported that there are currently 225 students enrolled at our parish school for next year. Sister Anna thinks we could take that number to 235.

First Communion: Sixty-six kids received their First Holy Communion last Sunday. Everyone was well behaved, and the children were darling in their suits and white dresses. It was a great celebration!

Confirmation: Also a lovely celebration. Bishop Paprocki commented that he likes attending events at St. Boniface. They are always so well planned and orchestrated.

FATHER JEFF REPORT (continued)

Father McGivney Catholic High School: Everything is going on schedule, and construction should be completed by August 10th. The annual campaign has raised over \$62K—due in part to the cover story in the most recent *Catholic Times*. There are 38 freshman coming in next year. They have been hoping for 60, but 8th grade enrollment was down this year. Father hopes enrollment will pick up after the open house.

STEWARDSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE—Cindy Clark

GO GREEN WEEKEND: About 30 people responded to our appeal to sign up for electronic giving, on-line bulletins, and on-line *Catholic Times*.

Capital Campaign Study: A letter is being prepared to be sent to parishioners with some of the results of the study as well a link to the website for the report. The letter will also include some of the goals and plans of the Stewardship/Discipleship Committee.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY: The committee will sponsor a Commitment Sunday—tentatively October 18th—at which time parishioners will be given an opportunity to commit to providing their time, talent and/or treasures. Leading up to this event they will provide a Blessing Tree. People can take “leaves” on which they can write the blessings in their lives. These “leaves” will be hung back on the tree for the parish to share these blessings. The committee will also have people in the gathering areas to assist those interested in signing up for ministries. Father talked about a program to coordinate with the Year of Mercy which will begin with our new church year on December 8th. This program will allow people to commit to different levels of service.

“Did you know...?” Weekends: These will be information weekends that will help build communications and help people understand who we are as a parish.

BUSINESS

MENTORING COUPLES: Father ask Jim and Nancy Jatcko to chair this program. Jim accepted. All couples getting married in 2016 will have to go through the mentoring program. Father will meet with Jim soon to discuss a method for selecting mentoring couples and to develop a program for mentoring.

MINISTRY WEEKENDS: Cindy and Robin suggested having monthly ministry weekends where each group would have an opportunity to present a witness talk before or after Mass. These groups would then be available after Mass to answer questions and sign up those interested in participating. These presentations would promote community and commitment.

INFORMATION TENT AT BONIFEST: We will not have an information tent at Bonifest, but we will sell can koozies—possibly with the Bonifest logo—at the ticket stands. Father also mentioned that Bonifest volunteers will be wearing name tags.

NEW BUSINESS

SECURE FACILITIES: Father talked about an issue that was discussed at a recent staff meeting regarding the increase in people coming to the church requesting financial assistance. In an effort to control this issue we are requiring these folks to complete a form with their information and provide a photo ID. As the safety of our church is a growing concern, Father would like a committee to look into ways of securing the church in a manner that keeps it open and available to those who need it. Robin agreed, as did Mary, to be on this committee. Father suggested including Michael Joslyn and Bill Doerr. Law enforcement and our current security provider will be consulted on this matter for their input and suggestions. He would like a plan by August.

Sue Papajcik has asked Father to be relieved of her duties as liaison from the Pastor's Cabinet to the Pastoral Council. Linda Daniels will be replacing Sue at our next meeting.

Our next meeting will be May 26th. At this meeting we will be finalizing our plans for the Priesthood Celebration/St. Boniface Feast Day Fellowship weekend.

Father concluded our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner