

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES AUGUST 4, 2015

**ATTENDEES:** Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Cindy Clark, Linda Daniels, Rich Hahn, Jim Jatcko, Georgann Lautner, Marisa Nieto, Lauren Serfas, and Mary Westerhold.

**ABSENT:** Maria Carrion, Deacon Dan Corbett, Arthur Langston, Jeff Litterst, and Lacey Gelsing.

Lauren read the Gospel for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Linda read the reflection. The Gospel from John, Jesus declares that he is “the living bread that came down from heaven.” The reflection asks if we practice the arts of gathering, listening, sacrifice and communion as we participate in the Eucharist.

*“As you participate in the Eucharist, imagine yourself lifting the world up to the Father in Christ for its healing, bringing all people together in life.” (Sunday Prayer for Catholics, 2015, LTP)*

What would you preach about this Sunday?

Linda noticed that many of our readings recently reference “feeding.” Cindy said that the last sentence in the reflection—asking us to bring the world together—is a huge task for one individual. Robin said she likes watching people as they go to communion. She thinks about all the different people from all walks of life and economic statuses all brought together to share in the One Body. Lauren talked about how awesome it is to her that we are actually receiving God Himself. We eat and become the living bread. But, she wonders, do we do anything with it. Are we changed from it? Linda likes the reflection song after communion. It gives you some time to sit there and absorb what just happened. Jim said he likes to share this Gospel with his Protestant friends. He, too, questioned whether or not we really realize what we are participating in. Are we changed? Do we realize the gift? I mentioned, in response to Cindy’s comment—about the individual’s burden to change the world—that we are a community now united in that task as we go forth. Rich wondered if the Father draws *all* of us. “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him...” (John 6:44) Father asked the question, “If you’re a Buddhist, Methodist, agnostic, Hindu, are you called? Are you going to go to heaven?” We Catholics are looked upon as being smug because we think we are the only ones who will go to heaven. We are all called to lift up the world. As long as we get the job done we will be raised on the last day. This “calling” is inclusive.

### ONE BREAD ONE CUP

Father Jeff asked Lauren to report on her experience at OBOC. This is a five day liturgical conference held at St. Meinrad Archabbey, Monastery, and Seminary in Indiana. The program is led by the monks and interns as well as by priests and lay people within the church. The teens live in a monastic setting and have an opportunity to dive deeper into the liturgy of the Mass. Their activities are liturgical, prayerful, and recreational and include confession, adoration, and theological reflection groups at the end of the day. This was Lauren’s third trip to OBOC, and one of her objectives was to focus on the experiences of other people and how they were changed by them. It is the objective of OBOC that these young people will take what they have learned back to their parishes. Lauren talked about how awesome it is to be in the Meinrad setting—to find that “perfect peace”—and how difficult it is to come home and maintain that aura of “perfect peace”. But she realized that her search should be for God

### **ONE BREAD ONE CUP (cont.)**

and not for the “experience”. You can search for God anywhere, and if you’re willing to open yourself up to Him, you will find him everywhere.

She said that 10 teens from St. Boniface went on the trip and all of them enjoyed the experience. Jim said his son, Aaron, had a good time, too, and was particularly impressed with reconciliation. Cindy asked what she learn that would improve our parish life. Lauren stated that OBOC helps in her work to improve the Tower Teen and Steeple People programs and building a stronger sense of community with our parish youth. Lauren’s liturgical focus at OBOC was on Stewardship and Hospitality—learning how to help people feel welcome and to build community attitudes. She intends to use what she has learned by coming earlier before Mass and greeting people as they come in and to try get to know more people.

We are fortunate to have this wonderful group of gifted, talented and smart young people in our parish to help lead and set excellent examples for our youth and for their peer groups outside the parish. Thank you, Lauren!

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BONIFEST.** We made about \$3K less than last year. The exact numbers will be in the bulletin soon.

**JUNE FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND REVIEW.** We all agreed there was a really good turn out that weekend especially at the 10:15 Mass. Father asked if we should have another one. Cindy suggested we should do something in conjunction with Dedication Weekend in October.

**RUMMAGE SALE.** This year’s sale made over \$9100. A card is being prepared to send to Sheila Legate thanking her for all the time she puts into making this event such a HUGE success. Hers is a special talented shared.

**STB SCHOOL** has 228 enrolled and 47 preschoolers, too. School starts August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**FMCHS** has 132 enrolled. 45 of those are freshman. School starts on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The dedication is set for Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:30. There will NOT be a Mass at the dedication. A special open house will be held at 1:00 for donors. There is a soccer field. Other sports fields are on the horizon.

**CEMETERY MASS.** The regular 4:15 Mass on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> will be held out at St. Boniface Cemetery. The Bishop will NOT be present. People will be instructed to bring their own chairs and strollers—like at the Memorial Day Mass. In case of rain or extreme heat, the Mass will be held in the church.

**RED MASS.** Bishop Paprocki will be here on Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the Red Mass for attorneys, judges and all those in the legal profession. Five hundred invitations have been sent. Mass will be at 10:15 and will be followed by a luncheon. Politics will be left at the door.

## UPDATES

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION—ROBIN BLACK-RUBENSTEIN

**Koinonia:** The weekend of September 11-13. Planning is on track for our STB-K2. Lauren asked if the teens could attend. Robin suggested maybe the older ones—like the seniors. Linda stated that she went to STB-K1—kinda kicking a screaming. She said she really didn't want to go. At the end, she didn't want to go home. She said it was one of the best experiences of her life. It was powerful as she felt the Holy Spirit gradually come into her mind and soul. She was glad she went. Robin said sign up sessions will be starting soon.

**Theology Uncorked:** This is the fall speaker series slated for September 15, 22, and 29. The theme is "taking care"—Care of Creation (based on the Popes encyclical); **Care of ?**, and ; Take Care of Self. She should have the speakers finalized very soon.

**Jeff Cavins Bible Study:** This is an 8 week course which includes a half hour video and half hour discussion. This will meet on Wednesday nights and Thursday mornings beginning September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Financial Peace:** Nikki Bugger will be presenting this program again beginning Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 2:30 pm in the Acorn Room.

**Free Lunch Friday:** This program is becoming self-sufficient. Robin has many good and capable volunteers. Mary shared some positive feedback that she has been hearing from people who have been there for lunch when our group is in charge.

**SACK Program:** We have only two Fridays left. We have had an excellent response in the form of volunteers for this program.

**Grief Support Group:** This group continues to meet.

**Cedarhurst** has a Prayer/Word Service every third Monday of the month at 10am.

**Homebound Ministry:** Tom Oren continues to look for help for this ministry which visits the homebound and people in the hospital and in the various nursing facilities in our area.

**Ministerial Alliance:** This group of church leaders is working together to formulate a plan to deal with the homeless and those who come to our church doors asking for assistance. The Township is doing a Lunch and Learn series and is creating a handbook. Cindy also suggested 211 calls to the United Way. People who need assistance can dial 211 and the United Way will put them in touch with the people and organizations that can help them.

## **UPDATES (cont.)**

### **YOUTH GROUPS—FATHER JEFF**

**Steeple People and Tower Teens:** Father Jeff reported that there was a meeting last week with Jill, Father Jeff, and the un-intrusive adults, Georgann Launter and Joan Green, and with the our two new people who have joined the team, Sarah Deters and Ben Motil. Sarah is the new theology teacher at McGivney and has experience working with youth groups. She comes to us from SIU-E Religious Center. Ben has recently joined our St. Boniface parish and is interested in working with the youth groups. Michael Gray will also be helping. Their focus will be on our older teens in Steeple People. Jill will still facilitate Tower Teens along with some of our seniors from the Steeple People group.

**Frequent Faith Flyers:** Father held a meeting for our 19 – 35ish year olds a couple of weeks ago. The turnout was beyond expectations. There were about 50 people there armed with a lot of good ideas regarding what they wanted their group to be about. They separated into groups that would each organize the activity for a particular monthly meeting. The October event will be social along with some catechesis.

**World Youth Day 2016:** It was asked how the fund raising efforts were going for this event. Lauren said they have about half of what they need. They will be hosting a Trivia Night and an e-recycling event. Cindy suggested putting their fund raising goal in the bulletin. The teens will be talking at the Masses on August 15 and 16 about the WYD trip.

### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE—Cindy Clark**

Events will kick off in September beginning with the Blessing Tree and lead up to Dedication Weekend in October. There will be witness talks at Masses. Father will have another “did you know” homily. Father Jeff is very pleased with the progress of this committee. They have a great chemistry and drive to make a difference in our parish. We all appreciate their hard work.

### **SECURITY—Mary Westerhold**

Mary has been working to find ways to secure the church during the day; during the evenings when there are activities in the lower level, and; securing the premises at the end of the day. We have security cameras, but not everywhere.

These options were discussed:

- A gate to the lower level and shutting off the elevator--but that hinders those who need access to set up for events, luncheons, etc.
- A buzzer system similar to the one at the school--then we would be able to lock the church doors.
- Hire a security officer who would come in every night and check all the nooks and crannies and then lock up.
- Install motion detectors upstairs and an alarm system.
- Provide “panic buttons” in the sanctuary and other areas. These would set off a silent alarm to alert the alarm company to call the police. Liturgical ministers would need to be made aware of the system and trained in its use

Mary plans to meet with a representative from the police department and get their recommendations, too. She hopes to have a final report soon.

## **BUSINESS**

### **FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION**

Father Jeff reported that we will be condensing the weekly income/expense report in the bulletin. An expanded report will be provided quarterly. This new format will begin soon.

Also, the budget has been approved. This committee hopes to begin a capital campaign in January 2017.

### **MENTORING COUPLES—Jim Jatcko**

Jim stated that they need to look at and choose a curriculum to begin this new program in 2016. He and his wife, Nancy, will be attending a Day of Reflection in October at Villa Marie in Springfield. This is a retreat for people who work with marriage ministries. Father Jeff will start selecting couples to work in this ministry.

## **BUSINESS**

### **CREDO 101**

This is a series Father plans to personally present to catechize our adults and parents so they can carry the faith to our children and to others. This will be a series of five ninety minute sessions based on basic Catholicism. It will be strongly recommended that parents with children in the second grade (communicants) and the eighth grade (confirmands) attend these sessions.

He requested that we provide him with some possible topics.

- Sunday Mass—Why? Why is it a sin if we miss?
- Infant vs adult baptism
- Mary and why do we pray to her?
- Why do we have to go to confession?
- Body and Blood—really?
- Why do we make the sign of the cross?
- Why do we pray to Saints/saints?
- Sacramental—rosary, medals, scapulars, prayer cards, etc.—what is all that junk?
- What are my “gods”?

Father plans to begin with the Sunday Mass obligation because the Mass—community, the Word, the Eucharist-- is intended to flow into everything else we do. It keeps us connected to God and to each other. Rich is concerned about people being turned off stressing the obligatory connotations of Sunday Mass. People don't like to be harped on about the burden of guilt. He would rather it be presented that true joy comes from community and participation and a person denies himself of that joy by not making Mass a priority.

Each session will end with a question and answer session.

Our next meeting will be September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Father closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by  
Georgann Lautner