

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Cindy Clark, Linda Daniels, Deacon Dan Corbett, Rich Hahn, Arthur Langston, Georgann Lautner, Jeff Litterst, Lauren Serfas, and Mary Westerhold.

ABSENT: Maria Carrion, Jim Jatcko, and Marisa Nieto.

Linda read the Gospel from Mark for the Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Lauren read the reflection. This Gospel tells about Jesus healing the deaf man who also had a speech impediment—“Ephphatha”, “be opened”. In the reflection, we are told, “The rite of Baptism concludes with the ephphatha, a liturgical replication of Jesus’s miracle of healing the deaf mute... our ears and mouths are instruments for glorifying God.” (*Sunday Prayer for Catholics 2015*, LTP)

Father wants to experiment a little. He wants to invite everyone at Mass to read this Gospel with him. Do we know what these words mean? Linda mentioned this is the scripture from which the words of the rite of Baptism are taken. Rich said he had done some research on this Gospel. It is said that through original sin we are deaf and dumb. Baptism opens us up to salvation. He also mentioned that Decopolis is a non-Jewish district. Jesus is again healing someone outside his faith community.

Deacon Dan talked about how we are called to open our mouths but generally do not. We need to speak of our faith. There was a discussion of the charismatic atmosphere and how it differs from Mass to Mass and from parish to parish and from denomination to denomination. Our Protestant brothers and sisters are much more comfortable about discussing their faith experiences. We Catholics still seem to be struggling to emerge from the pre-Vatican II mentality where there was less Bible study, and silence was a virtue. Jesus calls us *all* to evangelize.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Sunday evening Mass on Labor Day Weekend. Also, no Monday evening Mass on Labor Day.

Youth Ministry Weekend Kick-off is September 12th and 13th. There will be witness talks at each Mass, opportunities to sign up after all Masses, and a pizza party after the 5:15 Mass on the 13th. Bring a friend and ideas.

Annual Clergy Convocation will be held in Grafton September 14-17. Father will commute except he will not be back for Wednesday evening Mass.

Bishop Creek 150th Anniversary is September 19 & 20. Father will be joining his home parish in the celebration.

STB 150th Anniversary will be in 2019—just around the corner. A committee will be formed after the first of the year to start planning the year-long celebration. Father is thinking about a Christmas Parade in which the whole community can participate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

STB School and FMCHS Marketing Team. Father would like to have a team that promotes Catholic education. He wants to keep enrollment at STB at 225 or more. FMCHS enrollment is 125 in a facility that can hold 400. We would like to see that number increase. This team will be a handpicked group. Father will start recruiting people soon.

CREDO 101—Basic Catholic Beliefs

This program will be presented on five dates and the same topic—Sunday, the Day of the Lord. Everything we do should start with this day and follow every day. Then the next Sunday we return to be recharged.

Parents of second graders (First Penance and Holy Communion) and parents of eighth graders (Confirmation) are **required** to attend. Parents of students attending STB School and FMCHS are **highly encouraged** to attend. All parishioners are **encouraged** to attend.

Sessions are: Thursday, September 24
Thursday, October 15
Sunday, October 25
Tuesday, November 17
Tuesday, February 16

All sessions will run from 6:30 to 8:00.

REVIEW

Cemetery Mass. Planning for this event began a year ago to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Boniface Cemetery and the dedication and blessing of the new section and the new Pieta statue. Jerry and Sharon Hengehold and their team did an excellent job of getting the cemetery spruced up and landscaped and orchestrating this event. About 300 people attended the Mass on Saturday, August 29th at 4:15pm. It was a lovely afternoon.

Red Mass. About 100 attorneys, judges, and others from the legal profession attended the 10:15 am Mass on August 30th. The Bishop was very pleased and said that this is the largest Red Mass he has presided over. Benna and her crew did an outstanding job organizing this event and the luncheon that followed. Our choir shined at this function as well as the Cemetery Mass. They are the best!

FMCHS Dedication. What a fantastic celebration! All the seniors participated. Mary and Linda commended the students for being such great tour guides. They represented their school very well. Morgan Wagner, a student from Staunton, had a remarkable presentation on behalf of the students. About 1100 people attended. Bishop Paprocki was very happy with the participation of the Catholics in the Alton Deanery. Another open house is being planned in October.

UPDATES

MENTORING COUPLES—Jim Jatcko

Father reported for Jim. Jim and Nancy have been researching curriculum for this program and have submitted some options for Father to review. Father thinks he has made his choice but also wants to develop a program for the mentoring couples. What does he want them to be, and what do *they* want to get out of the program? He foresees a program that establishes a relationship between the paired couples. The mentoring couples will need to be trained, too. Father will be choosing couples to be mentors and hopes to have a viable team by November

SECURITY—Mary Westerhold

Mary hasn't heard back from the people she has contacted and therefore, had nothing to report. Father Jeff plans to interview a parishioner who is a retired police officer for a security officer position. The plan is for him to come up to the campus at around 9:30 pm and do a walk-through of the office, school and church. This position needs to be approved by the finance council. Father also reported that the cameras at the school and church are being updated, and he is looking into silent alarm system—panic buttons. Cindy noticed that 2-1-1 brochures are in the mailbox outside the office for our frequent visitors who come looking for assistance.

STEWARDSHIP—Cindy Clark

Cindy reported that the Stewardship Committee is ready to kick off the Stewardship Campaign with the Blessing Tree beginning the weekend of September 19th. For about 4 or 5 weeks people will fill out leaves—provided in the bulletin and at the back of the church—with the blessings in their lives. They will then attach their blessing leaves to the Tree. Cindy is very pleased with the tree that was designed by Mark Miller.

Near the end of September there will begin witness talks on service, spirituality, and sacrifice—a different topic each week for 3 weeks. On October 25th, Commitment Weekend, people will be asked to commit. The focus will be on their annual gift to the church—give back for all our gifts received.

Rich said the stewardship page in the bulletin looks much better—cleaner. We agreed.

Great job, Stewardship Committee! We pray for the success of the campaign.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS GROUPS—Father Jeff

Steeple People. This group of high school age youth will be led by Sarah Deter, Ben Motil, and Mike Grey. The theme this year will be the creed.

Tower Teens. This group is made up of middle school age youth and will be led by Jill Griffin and some of the members of Steeple People. Lauren reported that they don't have a common theme but are working on presentations and activities for this group.

As stated earlier, these two groups will have sign-up weekend and a pizza party the weekend of September 12-13th.

Frequent (Faith) Flyers. This group is for our 19-35ish young adults. Their meetings will begin October 22nd with an Oktoberfest theme. This first meeting will basically be social with ice breaker activities. The group planning the November meeting is working on a scavenger hunt.

UPDATES (cont.)

FAITH FORMATION—Robin Black Rubenstein

Theology Uncorked. This is a speaker series beginning September 15th for adults 18 and over. This is a three part series on Catholic Living for Everyone:

September 15th – Care of Creation-On Care of our Common Home—presented by Sr. Sharon Zayac, O.P.

September 22nd – Care of Each Other, Community Near and Far, Promoting Community, Mercy, and Dignity Every Day—presented by Victoria Dhabalt Compton.

September 29—Care of Ourselves—The Balancing Act, Care of our Physical, Spiritual, and Emotional well-being—presented by Marion Love.

These presentations are on Tuesdays at 6:30 to 8:30 in the Oak Room. The cost is \$15 per class or \$35 for the series. Catechist credit is available for these programs.

Lectio Divina. This will be the first and third Wednesdays from 10-11 am beginning September 16 through April 20, 2016. Sue Deakos and Laura Jones will lead these group reflections and study on Sunday readings.

Bible Study. *“Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible”* a new series by Jeff Cavins will be presented Wednesday evenings and again on Thursday mornings beginning September 30th through November 19th. This is a half hour video which Robin plans to follow up with about a half hour discussion. She is open to present this at other times, too, if anyone is interested and can't make it to the regular times.

RCIA began Monday evening, August 31st. This first class was attended by seven people who are interested in the Catholic faith.

Financial Peace University. Response is low.

Free Lunch Friday. This is a vibrant ministry which Robin said seems to have taken on a life of its own. Lou Carnoali is very helpful in this group and took over when Robin was out of town.

Grief Support continues to meet once a month.

Word Services are being held once a month at Cedarhurst. Stillwater Nursing home has inquired about visitations for their five Catholic residents. Tom Ohren continues to look for help with this ministry.

Koinonia. Only five people signed up for the retreat and ten are needed. So Robin sadly decided to postpone our parish retreat until January 23, 2016. Much of the planning has been done so the team won't have a lot to do come January.

BUSINESS

Cindy asked what can the council do to help with the Stewardship Plan. Can any of us do a witness talk? Can we help out with Fellowship/Commitment Weekend? Pastoral Council will take over the planning of Fellowship Weekend. We will provide the basic fare—wine and cheese, cookies, doughnuts, and pizza. Jeff and Georgann will coordinate this event. We will discuss this event further at our next meeting.

Father talked more about the CREDO sessions. Sunday worship comes from scripture. We need to keep connected to our Sunday experience and then return to pause, reflect, and recharge. How does Sunday play out in the course of our lives the rest of the week? How do we rise from our “Good Fridays”—Mass, Eucharist, and reconciliation?

There was also a discussion about the current debate in the media concerning absolution. Absolution, excommunication, public excommunication.... The Church is on the firing line in the news and on social media—again.

Father Jeff ended the meeting with prayer.

Our next meeting will be October 6th. Father will be away, and Robin will preside.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner