

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES NOVEMBER 3, 2015

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

ABSENT: Linda Daniels, Jim Jatcko, and Marisa Nieto.

READINGS FOR THE 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Maria read the first reading from I Kings which was the story of Elijah who asked the widow, Zarephath, to bake the last of her flour and oil and share the food with him. By doing so, he told her the God of Israel would see to it that her jar of flour and jug of oil would never go empty. Lauren read the second reading from Hebrews which says, “so also Christ, offered once to take away the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to take away sin but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him.” Rich read the Gospel according to Mark where Jesus admonishes the scribes who demand honor and respect as they “devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext recite lengthy prayers.” He also talks about the rich who give large sums from their surplus and the widow who gave more because she gave all she had from her want. Father also read the reflection from *Sunday Prayer for Catholics 2015* which asks if we have such “radical trust in God,” and are we humble in giving.

In reference to the first reading, Robin said that it took a lot of trust for the woman to prepare and give her and her son’s last meal away. The Gospel talks again about the radical trust in God to provide by the widow to giving all she had. Rich mentioned the juxtaposition of the judgement of appearances of those who give much from their surplus vs those who give all that they have—from their want. Lauren sited the never depleted oil and flour. God will always give us what we need—grace, Holy Spirit, talents, generous hearts, trust, abundant love, love to share. Cindy is anticipating the stewardship lesson—the final lesson—for the Financial Peace program which teaches that we are the investment managers from God. Father Jeff said that our Stewardship Program speaks to us to trust and then participate.

FELLOWSHIP/STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT WEEKEND

I reported that although the 4:15 Mass fellowship was a bit lukewarm, others reported that the other Masses were well attended. We had too much cheese—4 trays. We should either get less cheese or get something different. Robin picked up 15 dozen doughnuts, 10 dozen doughnut holes, and 4 trays of cookies. (*FYI there were no cookies for the 5:15 Mass, so maybe we should get one more tray next time.*) All of those items, as well as the 22 pizzas from Joe’s Pizza were eaten. Arthur mentioned that most people have plans on Saturday nights which could perhaps explain the low numbers after the 4:15 Mass. We probably won’t have another fellowship weekend until next spring.

Maria said that the Spanish Mass fellowship was well attended, too. Father explained that the ministry committees are structured a little differently with the Hispanic community. They have a committee that works closely with Father Jeff and Father Paul and deals with outreach, liturgy, music, and social issues.

As for Commitment weekend, Cindy reported that so far 121 commitment forms have been returned. Jeff and others thought the witness talks were very good and inspirational. Father mentioned that perhaps passing the forms out during Mass and expecting people to return them right away may have been asking a little much. Arthur said it was a lot to absorb at Mass. But this is the first time for this,

FELLOWSHIP/STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT WEEKEND (continued)

and we learned. We should probably hand out or mail the brochures ahead of Commitment Sunday so people have more time to review them. We could also give some explanations for the various stewardship activities and opportunities so people have a better chance to ask questions before they commit. Father applauds what the Stewardship Committee has done and has accomplished. The council agrees. Great job!

GODSPELL. SIU-E Theater department will be presenting the musical, *Godspell*, at our church on November 5th through November 8th.

VOCATION MASS. The Wednesday, November 4th, evening Mass intention will be for vocations. Mass will be followed by Holy Hour—Adoration along with a rosary—and then, Benediction.

FACES OF ST. BONIFACE. This is a contest presented by the Photo Club. Entries must be 8 x 10 photos due November 9th. So far there is one entry.

CREDO 101. The remaining sessions are November 19th and February 16th in the Acorn Room.

REPORTS

ADULT FAITH FORMATION—ROBIN BLACK-RUBENSTEIN

Bible Study. Robin reported that there are 2 weeks left of the Wednesday/Thursday Jeff Cavins Bible study series.

Advent Scripture Reflection. She asked Mary to help her with an on-line scripture reflection series for Advent.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Video. This will be presented on December 8th at 7p.m.

Living the Eucharist. Materials are in, and leaders can start collecting money from the participants.

Security Plan Training. Lt. Charles Kohlberg is trying to customize a training program for us that will last about 2 hours. He planned to present it to various church employees and liturgical ministers—ushers, sacristans, etc.—on Monday, November 16th. Father said that date is too soon, and something should be planned for January. We need to get as many people trained as possible as this is very important to our parish security.

Free Lunch Fridays. Our remaining dates for 2015 are November 13th and December 11th.

SOCIAL JUSTICE—DEACON DAN

Deacon reported that with the help of a special gift, over the course of the last couple of years St. Vincent de Paul was able to “adopt” a family—a single mom with one child. SVP provided housing, food, childcare, and tuition for her last three semesters. Mom has since graduated with a degree in social work. SVP tried to help her get a job locally, but there were no positions available. She was able to get a job in North Carolina with the YMCA and has many opportunities for advancement. She was lifted from her poverty and has been given to opportunity to be a good, productive citizen. The group is discussing when they can do this again.

Deacon also mentioned that one of SVP newest members was looking at the group’s finances and was doubtful if they were going to be able to provide all the services they had planned. Deacon and the other veteran members of the conference assured this individual that God will provide. Trust.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING. Eve (only) at 6:45pm (Bread and Wine blessed)

PARISH PENANCE SERVICES. St. Cecilia’s—December 15th at 7 pm
St. Boniface—December 20th at 7 pm

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE. Eve at 4:15pm, 8:15pm, and 10:15 pm. Day at 8:15am.

NEW YEARS. Eve at 4:15 pm and Day at 10:15 am.

LATIN NIGHT. On Saturday, December 12th, the St. Boniface Spanish Community invites us to the celebration of the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There will be a Live Representation at 5:45 pm followed by Mass. There will be the blessing of the statue of Our Lady; a procession to the Shrine, and; dances and song. A buffet dinner serving authentic Latin American and Spanish dishes. Bring your own alcoholic beverages. Ice, tea, soda, and coffee will be provided. Tickets can be purchased for \$20 per person and \$10 per persons 6-12. Proceeds benefit the St. Boniface Parish Spanish Community. Maria stated that the Spanish community is excited about this celebration.

BUSINESS

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

*Excerpt from **Evergreen** for November 8th: The Jubilee Year of Mercy ~ The Jubilee Year of Mercy begins on December 8 which is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The Year of Mercy will be celebrated throughout the universal Church until November 20, 2016. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, hopes that “the whole Church will find in this Jubilee Year the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our times.”*

Monthly Events. i.e. 2016 Calendar specifies Corporal Works and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Father is planning to have a healing Mass in January in correlation to the January work of mercy—visit and pray for the sick, homebound, and elderly. We should think about activities we can do every month in relation to that month’s work of mercy.

BUSINESS--JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY (continued)

Promotion Ideas. Father suggested giving key chains to commemorate the Year of Mercy. There will be articles and columns in the Evergreen bulletin throughout the year dedicated to this jubilee. Deacon is drawing from the Papal Bull for his column.

Speakers and Mission. We agreed that it's too late to plan a Mission for early 2016, but we should start in March 2016 to plan one for February 2017. In the meantime, we could have a speaker series. Father suggested a Credo 102. Deacon said he has a presentation on the Spiritual Works of Mercy that he could do during lent. Father also suggested that we replace the St. Michael prayer with the Beatitudes.

Catechesis. There is a free app for the Year of Mercy—*365 Days of Mercy*.

Mary suggested a Year of Mercy blog that parishioners could subscribe to via the website. It was initially suggested that it be sent to everyone whose email address we had, but because of spam filters on email, this would probably not make it to most parishioners email inboxes. So, we would encourage people to subscribe to it.

The council was invited to take a work of mercy from the calendar and write to the blog. These would appear on the 8th of every month.

Mary will write the December blog.

January- Robin- Visit and pray for the sick, homebound, and elderly.

February- Lauren- Provide food for the hungry and drink for the thirsty.

March- Deacon Dan- Shelter the homeless and clothe the less fortunate.

April- Jeff- Evangelize the unaware.

May- Father Jeff- Visit and pray for the imprisoned.

June- Arthur- Counsel the doubtful.

July- Rich- Bear grievances patiently.

August- Lacey- Comfort the troubled and distressed.

September- Jim- Show thoughtfulness toward sinners.

October- Maria- Correct ourselves and sinners with charity and love.

November- Cindy- Pray for the dead.

OTHER BUSINESS

Lucy Lights. I was wondering if the church could be opened on Friday, November 27th, so I could go through the lights and see what we need to replace. Then I would like to hang the lights on Saturday, December 5th and asked Father if he could contact McGivney High for a crew of kids who may need service hours. Father suggested using projector lights on the plaza trees. ALL HANDS ARE WELCOME!

Frequent Flyers. Lacey said there were about 35 people at the Octoberfest in Father's backyard. They had lots of fun, great weather, and good food. Their next gathering will be at Father McGivney High School on November 18th for a night of kickball. On December 18th the group will have a Christmas Carol Crawl for Catholic Cids (i.e. kids)—CCCC. They will use the McGivney buses. These events are to establish social relationships that will grow into spiritual relationships.

Sunday Dinner. Father suggested that we have a monthly potluck after the 10:15 Mass. The church would provide the meat entrée. This would promote fellowship.

OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

Holy Water Fonts. Arthur asked if there was a way to put fonts on both sides of the doors on the side exits. Father will look for some wall mounted fonts.

150th Anniversary Celebration 2019. In 2017, St. Mary's will be celebrating their 175th anniversary, too. Father is talking about doing a combined celebration like a picnic in the park. We will kick our celebration off in October 2018 and have a year-long party—including a Christmas/St. Nicholas parade.

Strategic Planning Group. Father wants this group to come up with a 5 year plan which would include planning the anniversary; tuck-pointing the old church; deciding what to do with the property we've bought, and; any other big, outrageous ideas they may have for our parish growth. Think big and TRUST.

Our next meeting will be December 1st. Continue to think of things we can do to celebrate the Year of Mercy and promote Sunday worship.

Father ended the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner