

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES JANUARY 14, 2016

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

ABSENT: Maria Carrion, Arthur Langston, and Jeff Litterst.

READINGS FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Our meeting began with prayer and reflection on the readings for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Gospel is about the wedding feast at Cana where Jesus performs his first miracle and enters into his public life. The reflection in the LTP *Sunday Prayer for Catholics 2016* says, “Mary is not only a mother but a disciple. Her recognition of need drew Jesus into his first public act of ministry. What new wine will he provide through our lives?” Did Jesus’ first public event as a minister outshine the bride at the wedding?

Jim is struck by the importance of Mary in Jesus’ life and her role to *push* him into his ministry. He also noted that it was mentioned that the *best* wine was saved for last, but when asked for, it was provided. Jesus gives us the *best* of everything—if we ask.

Father wondered what the original Greek translation was of Jesus’ response to his mother. It seems a little disrespectful. Lauren mentioned Mary’s response were her last words recorded in Scripture. Yes, she is speaking to Jesus, but she is also speaking to us. We, too, should listen and trust in what he says to us.

LATIN NIGHT REVIEW

It was agreed that Latin Night was an amazing success! The presentation, the food.... It was a fun night! Marisa reported that there was too much food and not enough room for people. The committee that plans this event will be discussing the need for more organization and better planning of how much food to prepare. They may talk about having the Mass and re-enactment on one night and the dinner on another. Father suggested catering the meal and presenting the re-enactment in both Spanish and English. Marisa also reported that their community continues to grow.

REVIEW CHRISTMAS MASSES AND HOLY DAY MASSES

We liked the light show during the homily. It was a nice addition. Jim mentioned that the 10:15 pm Mass was beautiful. Lacey liked the decorations—especially having only two trees at the altar instead of four. Father mentioned that the 8:15 pm was a little tight for Father Paul who had to be at Troy for the 10:00pm Mass. We may change ours to 8pm next year.

CREDO 101 SESSIONS

Father added another session on January 24th. The last session will be on February 17th.

BISHOP RYAN MEMORIAL MASS

Bishop Ryan had willed his body to science. As per his wishes, his memorial Mass will be at the Franciscan Motherhouse in Springfield, IL on January 26th at 10:30 am.

DIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP KICK OFF MASS

This will be on January 30th at 10am.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

This is January 31st through February 5th and will be observed at St. Boniface and FMCHS. Kick off at all Masses will be on the weekend of January 30/31st.

YEAR OF MERCY REPORT

Mary reported that there is an 84% click rate on the blog. Father reported that he is hearing a lot of confessions. Some mention that they came because they saw the sign in front of the church with the confession schedule.

SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT

Deacon Dan had nothing to report at this time. Father mentioned that the office is working on a checklist sheet. If someone comes to the office looking for help, they need to present an I.D. and a record will be kept as to what type of aid was provided. Basic needs—food, bus fare, etc.—will be met. Mercy can be offered at the parish office.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Robin BR reported that she will be spotlighting different faith formation opportunities in her column in the bulletin. This week it will be Koinonia, and people will be present after Masses this weekend to sign people up and answer questions.

Koinonia will be held March 4, 5, 6th which is the same weekend as the 24 Hours for the Lord.

Living the Eucharist. (Lenten Reflection) Small group meetings begin February 10/11. Wednesday session meets Feb. 10-Mar. 16 from 7:15-8:30 pm. Thursday session meets Feb. 11-Mar. 17 from 8:45–10:00 am. An online group is available. (excerpt from *Evergreen*)

Month of Guided Prayer. During the four weeks of April, spiritual directors will meet weekly with individuals interested in exploring their faith more deeply. Our parish has four trained spiritual directors—Father Jeff, Robin BR, Sister Kathleen Ann, and Phil Daniels. However, these directors will not be from our parish. Generally people who have spiritual directors meet with them on a monthly basis—more if needed.

Priest, Prophet and King. This is a video presentation from Bishop Robert Baron and will be a post-Easter program.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL REVIEW/REPORT

Cindy reported that the council was pleased with the results of the stewardship series. There has been a 5% increase in contributions. The committee has sent out Thank You notes to those who filled out commitment forms. Spreadsheets with new ministry members have been sent to ministry leaders to contact the new people. Father Jeff is very pleased with the continued hard work of this committee and their commitment. Cindy mentioned, too, that the group will be discussing how to improve on the process. For example, they plan to mail the commitment forms before Commitment Sunday so people have some time to review their options to participate.

Thanks again to this team for their good and diligent work!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STB TRIVIA NIGHT. January 23rd at 6:30 pm. This will benefit sending our kids to Space Camp.

Pre-Cana. February 6th at 9am to 5:15pm.

Lent 2016. Begins February 10th. We will have an 8am Mass and a noon Prayer Service with ashes, and a 6:45pm Mass.

Registration for STB and FMCHS. This has already begun. FMCHS already has 56 freshmen. The goal is 80 freshmen. There will be no tuition increase, but they will start charging fees for activities. STB will have a 2% tuition increase for the 2016-17 school year and a technology fee.

BUSINESS

24 Hours for the Lord. March 4th and 5th from 2pm to 2pm. This is also Koinonia weekend. Both programs provide the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Deacon Dan will have Eddie (our Security Guard) check with the men who provided security at last year's 24 Hours to see if they want to help out again this year. Again, this event will incorporate the Rosary, choir, and evening prayers. Participation by the Pastoral Council members is strongly encouraged.

Fraternus. A Brotherhood of Disciples Mentoring Boys into Virtuous Catholic Men. This is a group out of Denver who would train our parish men to be a core group of leaders who would teach our young men to make better choices and make their faith formation a priority. Father suggested that this would be a great program for our Knights of Columbus to attach themselves to. This group would meet weekly. The program includes a local and a national camping experience—similar to scouting.

The Denver group would come and train our leaders and the leaders from any other nearby parishes who want to participate in this program. The Diocese pays for this training.

Fidelis. Cultivating Feminine Virtue. This is the girls' group—the counterpart to Fraternus.

Both groups are geared to 11-18 year olds. These groups would be in addition to Tower Teens and Steeple People. Lauren worries that it would diminish those two groups. We agreed the more we can do to motivate our youth the better. Father will pursue these programs.

In closing, Linda encouraged the council to participate in Koinonia. It's worth it!! Father offered up a prayer.

Our next meeting is February 2nd at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted by,
Georgann Lautner