

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES MARCH 10, 2016

ATTENDEES: Robin Black-Rubenstein, Deacon Dan Corbett, Linda Daniels, Lacey Gelsinger, Rich Hahn, Jim Jatcko, Georgann Lautner, Marisa Nieto, Clyde Nosser, Lauren Serfas, and Mary Westerhold. Nate Vuagniaux was also present as the liaison for the Stewardship Council.

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

In Father Jeff's absence, Robin opened our meeting with prayer and reflection. The Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Lent is the story from Luke about the adulteress woman who the crowd was preparing to stone for her crime. Again, this was another attempt to trap Jesus. Jesus' treatment of the woman as a person of value—which, at the time, was not the norm—was something new. "...God promised through the prophet, Isaiah. For all time, Christ is the astonishing river of salvation, springing forth in the wastelands of human experience, restoring life to all who thirst." (*LTP Sunday Prayer for Catholics 2016*)

The readings were followed by a brief discussion. Lauren mentioned Jesus' posture during his exchange with the crowd. He was in a humble position—sitting—yet the people looked upon him with respect—as an authoritative figure. Deacon Dan presented a popular observation—"Where's the guy?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Penance Service—March 13th at 2:00 pm.

STB2019 Planning Commission Meeting—March 14th at 6:30 pm.

Holy Week Schedule:

Tuesday—ChrisM Mass at 6:30 pm at the Cathedral in Springfield.

Holy Thursday at 7:00 pm followed by Adoration until 10 pm.

Good Friday at 3:00 pm. Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm.

Easter Vigil at 7 pm with reception to follow.

Easter Sunday at 8:15 am and 10:15 am. NO Sunday evening Mass.

Fraternus—Training Session on September 17, 2016 at 9am to 3pm in the Oak Room.

Women's Prayer Breakfast—March 19th at 8:00 am in the Oak Room.

REVIEW

KOINONIA

Linda reported it was a wonderful experience. Robin BR and husband, Alan, did a wonderful job as group coordinators. The food was great. Everyone was exhausted, but it was a good exhaustion. Another Koinonia retreat will be planned for Lent next year. Someone asked Linda to compare last year's retreat to this one. Linda said this one was even better because she was able to be a part of planning the event and setting it up.

Robin came to the realization that it is a great community builder. You get to know people you see all the time at church, but probably would have never approached until after the Koinonia experience.

REVIEW (continued)

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

Robin reported there were sign-up sheets and Lauren's Sign-up Genius on line. She also put out a sign-IN book for those who came for Adoration. There were about 59 names. Deacon Dan reported that everything with security went well. The Chief of Police agreed to leave a squad car parked in our parking lot through the night. Lauren asked if we could do this more often—or at least in the fall. Deacon explained that it had been tried before on a couple of occasions, but we don't have much of a tradition of Adoration to get it going. The question was raised if we could do this again as part of the closing to the Jubilee Year of Mercy?

REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL—NATE VUAGNIAUX

Nate reported that the council has wrapped up its first year and was moderately successful. Contributions are up about 7%, and we have about 100 new Liturgical Ministers. They plan to retool for this year. They will be forming sub-committees for Communication, Celebration, and Creativity. Using Wichita's stewardship program as a model, they plan to grow in baby steps and get more parishioners involved as they progress. They plan to tap into the 66% of parishioners that do not make a recorded offertory.

SOCIAL JUSTICE—DEACON DAN

The norm for St. Vincent DePaul Society is to help out with rent, utilities, and necessities like medications, etc. There is an annual financial assistance cap per family. But through a special grant they have also been able to help one family at a time until it has obtained a certain goal. They've helped one family already and are now taking on their second. The mother--an LPN-- will receive assistance with rent for a year while she works towards her RN degree.

Robin talked about a situation at the school that brought Sr. Anna to the parish office and ultimately the involvement of St. Vincent DePaul Society. There was a woman with special needs who through the combined efforts of our staff got the services needed to help her with her disability and needs.

Deacon also talked about the effects of his column in the bulletin and how an act of mercy got people asking what is needed. The GlenEd Pantry overflows with certain items and has wants for others. Someone took the time to ask if there were any specific items that were needed. Deacon wrote about this which prompted others to ask the same question. People have responded in kind by providing much needed items.

Clyde has had some discussions with the Edwardsville Knights of Columbus about coordinating efforts in food drives. KC's have their food collection drives in April and October. He hopes to work with the KC's and the Troy Food Bus to get food to those most in need. He has also recruited EHS students—more specifically, the hockey team—to help in these endeavors. He is working on gathering dates and times for food collections which will generally go to St. Nicholas' Pantry in St. Louis and State Street in East St. Louis as well as the GlenEd Pantry. He will try to get directives from these recipients as to their greatest needs.

Robin reported that Free Lunch Friday continues to go strong. They are planning to serve fish this Friday from 11am to 1pm.

The Breakfast Ministry organized by Connie Frick is April 19th.

REPORTS (continued)

YEAR OF MERCY

All the monthly articles have been wonderful so far. In the interim, Mary has been sending out short scripture and inspirational passages. She also said she would put the invitation to receive the emails back out there after Lent to coincide with Divine Mercy Sunday.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION—Robin Black-Rubenstein

Living the Eucharist is finishing up. There's been a lot of good feedback from this session

Month of Guided Prayer. This will be in April. The program explores different ways to pray; puts you in touch with an experienced prayer guide, and; helps you become more aware of God's presence in your life. You will meet individually with a trained prayer guide every Thursday in April. More information on this program will be in the bulletin.

Priest, Prophet and King. This is a video series by Father Robert Barron focuses on Jesus and Biblical scripture. Robin plans to present this on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings beginning April 6/7 through May 18/19.

Theology Uncorked Series is being planned for the fall. Robin is open to suggestions for topics and speakers.

BUSINESS

HOLY THURSDAY SOUP AND BREAD SUPPER

Robin said that Father Jeff suggested we do a potluck with the soup and bread. We discussed this and those of us who worked the function last year said that it didn't work out so well. We were inundated with desserts and much of the food that was brought in was left behind. Much of it ended up being thrown away. Then, because of the start time, many people arrived late because they had to get something prepared before they came. We decided to keep it simple—soup, bread, water, coffee, tea and, perhaps, cookies. We will start at 5:30 and end around 6:45 so we can get to Mass. We can clean up after Mass. Robin will prepare an insert and have Father put it in his column.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rich talked about being more careful in scheduling functions in the church during Mass time in the Chapel. The noise in the church and sometimes the noise from the Oak Room is very distracting and disrespectful.

Clyde inquired about the nursing home issue. Robin said it didn't get discussed at the last staff meeting but was certainly on the agenda for this Tuesday's staff meeting.

Jim reported that the Mentoring Couples program just started this month. The plan is for couples to meet at least 3 or 4 times about 3 or 4 months before their wedding date.

Jim asked about the dates for One Bread One Cup because his son and some other Father McGivney students were asking about it. Lauren told him that Jill has submitted deposits for 5 students and is trying to get recruits.

OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

Frequent Flyers. Lacey said they had a good turnout for their last meeting—Stations of the Cross and then off to the very crowded fish fry. On April 1st they are planning a bowling party at Edison's. She said they average 30-35 people at each event.

Youth Ministry. Lauren reported that the numbers are low for Tower Teens and Steeple People. She suggested communicating the meetings better—Father's announcements, especially. She said sometimes the meetings are structured. Sometimes they just "hang out". They're trying to think of ways to get EHS kids to mingle with FMCHS kids—get them out of their comfort zones.

Robin asked Jim if FMCHS did any mission trips. Maybe we could get our EHS kids involved and working together for a common goal. Someone asked if Fraternus might help the mingling issue. Clyde said the food collection program would help get them to mingle.

A question was raised as to whether or not we were going to plan a parish mission. We need to start planning this soon if we intend to have one early 2017.

Robin closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be April 5th at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner

Hello All!!

I have found the answers to the two questions that came up at last week's meeting.

of families registered with St. Boniface:

2013 1457

2014 1471

2015 1546

of families utilizing online giving for offertory.

155

Let me know if this stirs up any new questions!!

Nate