

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL 5, 2016

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Deacon Dan Corbett, Linda Daniels, Lacey Gelsinger, Rich Hahn, Jim Jatcko, Arthur Langston, Georgann Lautner, Marisa Nieto, Clyde Nosser, Lauren Serfas, and Mary Westerhold.

ABSENT: Maria Carrion, Jeff Litterst, and Nate Vuagniaux.

Rich read the Gospel for the Third Sunday of Easter, and Georgann read the reflection. In the Gospel from John, Jesus appears to the apostles a third time since his resurrection. They had an uneventful night of fishing, and, at dawn, Jesus was waiting for them on the shore with breakfast ready. He tells Peter to cast the nets again, and they draw out 153 fish. The Gospel goes on with Jesus and Peter “entering into a dialogue that forgave Peter’s threefold denial. At first Peter could not respond with the same kind of love Jesus offered, so Jesus met Peter with the love he could accept. Have you been offered radical forgiveness? If you could accept it, give thanks. If not, ask Jesus to remove any barriers.” (LTP *Sunday Prayer for Catholics 2016*)

Father talked about how early scripture scholars, knowing that the name Thomas meant “twin,” searched the scriptures for his twin. Some thought that Jesus was Thomas’ twin—in a symbolic way—or, that we are the twin. Rich mentioned that this Gospel was written for the Greeks in their language. The Greek word they used for “love” was changed to another word that still translated to “love” but a type of love that Peter could accept—as mentioned before in the reflection.

Lauren talked about how the disciples didn’t always recognize Jesus right away. Why doesn’t God show himself to us? If he did, it would probably be in a form we wouldn’t want to see. Why didn’t they recognize him? They weren’t looking for him. They saw him beaten, crucified, dead and buried. They didn’t *expect* to see him.

Deacon continued that they may have just gone fishing to go fishing and maybe drown their sorrows with a little wine. Mary said they went fishing just to do something normal—as we all do after suffering a traumatic experience or loss. Father said it was about trust. They trusted Jesus and left everything to follow him. Now that he was gone, they went back to the life they trusted—fishing, their comfort zone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STB2019 PLANNING COMMISSION: This is a strategic planning group recently formed to evaluate the needs of our parish; review our facilities and properties, and; plan for the future including our 150th anniversary in 2019. This group will be meeting Monday, April 11th.

FRATERNUS: Our parish will host the introduction of this program to parishes of the Springfield Diocese on Saturday, September 17th.

CONFIRMATION: There will be 52 confirmands on April 22nd.

FIRST COMMUNION: 68 second graders will receive their First Communion on May 1st.

REVIEW

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER: We all agreed that the liturgies, decorations, and music were all very beautiful. Rich mentioned the reflection song at the Vigil Mass was exceptionally amazing. Father said that the Vigil Mass was well attended and that both Sunday Masses were packed.

HOLY THURSDAY SOUP AND BREAD SUPPER: There were about 175 people at the event. Very good! We also had a good crowd for Mass and Adoration.

REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL—Nate Vuagniaux

Nate was absent, but Father presented the Council's report.

1. **Committee Membership**— We have identified several parishioners for our Creativity, Communication and Celebration Committees.
2. **Stewardship and Parish Directory**— We will update our Directory. The updated Directory should go out early in the series—the week before the theme is revealed.
3. **Stewardship Calendar**— We reviewed the Stewardship Series Calendar from last year. We decided to keep the Go Green Weekend for EFT recruitment this April. We discussed asking a parishioner who was motivated by our series last year to provide a witness talk for all Masses. **Spirituality Weekend** is planned for October 16th to include the witness talk speaker. **Service Weekend** will be October 23rd and will consist of a Ministry Fair (no witness talks). **Sacrifice Weekend** will be October 30th and will feature a witness talk speaker. **Commitment Weekend** will be November 6th. Commitment brochures will be distributed by October 14th so parishioners can consider volunteer aspects prior to the Ministry Fair.
4. **Diocese Stewardship Update**—Brad Serfas attended the diocesan meeting. We will contact Brad for a report. Father says there is no clear plan for the diocese currently. The next Stewardship event is April 17th at 2 p.m. in Springfield.

Father added that this council needs and is recruiting more people to help in their endeavors. Pastoral Council will be, as in the past, responsible for the Ministry Fair which will be held in the fall.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION—Robin Black-Rubenstein

Month of Guided Prayer: 22 people are participating. If we wait for this group to present this program again, we won't be able to repeat this until 2018. Robin said if we start our own program we won't have to wait that long.

Priest, Prophet and King—There are about 18 people signed up for this series by Bishop Robert Barron. They will meet on Wednesday evenings and on Thursday mornings.

Monday Night Young Adults small group is doing Cavin's Bible Timeline.

Free Lunch Fridays—We have this week, April 8th; a date in May, and; June 11th.

Sack Program—We will be involved this summer with the lunch program. There will be 6 pick-up sites this year. We are scheduled for Fridays and need 13 volunteers for 12 weeks. This organization is always on the lookout for donations of money, snacks, and packaged drinks.

Grief Support—More outreach is being planned.

REPORTS

ADULT FAITH FORMATION (continued)

Clyde asked where the best place to find out what activities and events are available to attend or serve. On our website, select the drop down box on Adult Faith Formation. There are announcements in the bulletin and as well as on the calendar in the bulletin. There are notices on the lobby TV's. People are also welcome to call the office.

SOCIAL JUSTICE—Deacon Dan

Deacon reminded us that St. Vincent DePaul's major charism is to keep the family together—usually by helping out with utility bills. Because during the winter Ameren cannot turn off service, April is a heavy month for requests for help paying these bills.

Though the group has been known to help out at times with medication purchases, this is not a something they do regularly. So they have asked Catholic Charities for help in opening an avenue to this kind of assistance. Catholic Charities has been instrumental in finding a pharmacy in Edwardsville willing to join the MedAssist program.

Deacon also mentioned the continued generosity in response to his column that focused on the most needed and often forgotten items needed by the GlenEd Pantry.

Clyde reported that he continues to talk to different people and service groups in an effort to build a coalition to support his efforts to provide for those most in need. He is talking to the KC's, Father Dan from St. Mary's, students, etc. He is gearing up for a fall event.

Father interjected with his thanks and gratitude for all of Deacon Dan's help during Holy Week.

YOUNG ADULTS/FREQUENT FLYERS—Lacey Gelsinger

The bowling party at Edison's last Friday was fun with about 15-20 people. Father said the group will take the summer off. Lacey suggested that maybe the group should meet quarterly instead of monthly. Father suggested the next gathering would be fellowship at the beer tent at Bonifest. He also said that now that this group is established in fellowship, perhaps it's time for them to start doing some church stuff, too. Father and Robin talked about doing a deanery-wide Theology on Tap type group.

YOUTH GROUP—Lauren Serfas

What to do about our youth groups—Steeple People and Tower Teens? Lauren said the activities are well planned, but unless people show up the plans don't work. Kids are too busy at this time of year, and youth groups are no more a priority with them as they are with the parents. Even the Diocese isn't actively working on developing interest in youth groups. There was a discussion to have a couple of Deanery youth events every year. The problem with that idea is that ALL the parishes would need to work on the programs. Each parish would need to have a relationship with their youth for this to work-- as well as catechizing the parents to teach their children the importance of fellowship and community in the faith.

We will probably wait and see how Fraternalis and Fidelis changes attitudes towards the importance of youth participation and community.

BUSINESS

HOSPITALITY/WELCOME

Robin reported that we have several new member applications. She and the office staff need help in contacting these people. We need to do more, in general, in welcoming new parishioners. It was suggested that we have Mentor Parishioners—people who would offer to meet with new parishioners or to just meet them at Mass and show them around. Linda volunteered to help and agreed to co-chair this committee with Robin.

LISTING FOR CARE FACILITIES

Father said that he is referring this issue to Tom Ohren. There are so many privacy concerns with the lists that the various care facilities have that show who of their residents are our parishioners.

PARISH MISSION

It was agreed that we need to start planning a parish mission soon. We need to think about the date—some time before Koinonia and before or during Lent. We should be thinking about a topic and prospective speakers.

Our next meeting will be May 3rd.

Father closed our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner