

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES MAY 3, 2016

**ATTENDEES:** Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Deacon Dan Corbett, Linda Daniels, Rich Hahn, Georgann Lautner, Clyde Nosser, Lauren Serfas, Nate Vuagniaux and Mary Westerhold.

**ABSENT:** Maria Carrion, Lacey Gelsing, Jim Jatcko, Arthur Langston, Jeff Litterst, and Marisa Nieto.

Georgann read the Gospel for the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Rich read the reflection. The Gospel from John records the prayer of Jesus to the Father for those who spread the Good News and for those who will come to believe through these words.

*“Jesus prays for us . . . to be united with one another like he is with God. The point is that Jesus desires that we experience union with God and find union with all people. The Holy Spirit makes such union possible.” (LTP Sunday Prayer for Catholics 2016)*

Robin likes the line, “they are your gift to me.” Lauren liked it, too. It reminds her of the people in her life that have influenced and inspired her to ultimately be the person she is today. To Nate, it speaks of being in communion with the church, with each other, and with the Eucharist. We are all interwoven. Linda mentioned the line, “Father, the world also does not know you.” That statement rings true today in a world that doesn’t seem to know God. Deacon Dan pointed out that in the first sentence, Jesus puts his arms around us in prayer. Rich thought the statement was an exclusionary view. Who is saved, and who is not? Father Jeff reminded us to consider the audience and the time. This was an elementary lesson in the theology of Trinitarian doctrine to a very young church. The most powerful community is one’s own relationship with Jesus and how we share it with others. We *will* “get it” if we stay the course.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**STB PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE:** This group was introduced to the parish in last weekend’s bulletin. The group is currently collecting data to determine the needs of the parish and plan a timeline of meeting those needs. The most pressing issue at this time is to minimize further water damage to the church and chapel. They are getting bids for tuck pointing and for repairing the ramps.

**FRATERNUS:** Plans remain the same. This program will be introduced to the Diocese on September 17, 2016 at a presentation here at St. Boniface.

**GRADUATIONS:** St. Boniface School graduation is May 13<sup>th</sup>. Father McGivney Catholic High School graduation is May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**TWO SEMINARIANS:** Rob Johnson and Mark Tracey will be residing at St. Boniface this summer as they continue their studies and internships in preparation for their Ordinations.

**BONIFEST:** May 27-28<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed.

**FEAST OF ST. BONIFACE:** The June 5<sup>th</sup> weekend Masses will include a tribute to our patron Saint. No special festivities have been planned.

## REVIEW

**CONFIRMATION:** 54 young men and women were confirmed by Bishop Paprocki on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Everything went very smoothly. Bishop was pleased. He said he likes coming here because everything is done nice and done right.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** 64 second-graders received their First Holy Communion on May 1<sup>st</sup> with a modicum of confusion. It was highly suggested that we have ushers at this Mass since the distribution of Communion is different than at a regular Mass—the child and his/her parents receive first and after all have finished, the rest of the congregation is invited to receive the Eucharist. There was also some discussion of having ushers at funeral Masses, again, to help with the flow of those going to Communion.

## REPORTS

### STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL—Nate Vuagniaux

Nate reported that they sponsored a Go Green Weekend a couple of weeks ago. They plan to have another.

Also:

- New goals will be set at their next meeting.
- May 14/15<sup>th</sup>: There will be a general blessing of Liturgical Ministers and parish volunteers at all Masses on the weekend of May 14/15<sup>th</sup>. “The blessing is of gratitude for the generous service countless parishioners offer back to the parish, schools, and communities”. (*Evergreen* bulletin for May 8<sup>th</sup>)
- June 5: Send post cards
- June 11: Small fellowship after Masses
- Sept 11: Host 2<sup>nd</sup> electronic giving campaign
- Sept 25: Reveal theme/Party on the Plaza
- Oct 2 : Distribute commitment forms
- Oct 16: Witness talks on Spirituality
- Oct 23: Witness talks on Service/ Ministry Fair/Fellowship
- Oct 30: Witness talks on Sacrifice
- Nov 6: Commitment weekend
- They continue to refine the parish directory including the various service opportunities.

Nate also reported that it appears we are way ahead of the Diocese in our Stewardship program. Father is very pleased with the effectiveness and success of this council's efforts.

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION—Robin Black-Rubenstein

**Priest, Prophet and King Series:** There are two more weeks of the series left. Many have expressed a desire to re-watch the videos so Robin will repeat the videos on two nights. All are welcome.

**Month of Guided Prayer:** Robin reported that she has been receiving a lot of positive feedback. They will be returning for another session in July 2017.

**SAK Program:** Several people have volunteered to help with this lunch program. Distribution begins Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. They are also accepting donations of juice boxes and snacks for the lunches. A dedicated receptacle will be provided in the church lobby for these items.

## **REPORTS-- ADULT FAITH FORMATION (Continued)**

**Grief Support:** There have been a few people interested in helping with and inquiring about this ministry. She will be setting up a time for sharing.

**Free Lunch Friday:** Continues to thrive.

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE—Deacon Dan**

Deacon Dan reported that there are some new people with St. Vincent DePaul, and they have been going out on home visits. The reflection times at their meetings have become quite spiritually deep as these new members share their experiences and how these events have affected them. Deacon reported, too, that this is a busy time of year for them as Ameren is cutting people off who haven't been able to pay through the winter months.

### **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

We are in a wait-and-see mode until the Fraternus presentation.

### **YEAR OF MERCY—Mary Westerhold**

The on-line reflections are going well. Thanks to Jeff Litterst for his recent reflection.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **HOSPITALITY/WELCOME—Linda Daniels and Robin BR**

Linda reported that she and Robin have been meeting. They have discussed a mentoring-type program where a new parishioner would be contacted by an existing parishioner—someone who would be matched by Mass preference, age group, similar life situations such as kids in school, no kids, single, etc. The existing parishioner would act as a mentor and meet the new parishioner at Mass; perhaps give them a tour; take them to dinner to talk about their interests and what they expect in parish life—and the parish expects of them--and; to be a contact person so the new person feels like they have a connection to the parish from the start. Linda also talked about updating the information about the various ministries and faith formation opportunities at our parish. She will work with the Stewardship Council, too, in that area. The Council wondered if the on-line New Member Sign-up process could be improved. Father talked about how he's noticed that new parents seem to fall away from the church after they've had their children baptized. Perhaps we need to revisit the nursery ministry so we can get these new parents back to church.

### **PARISH MISSION**

Linda suggested having Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers from Portland, Oregon. She said he is quite a dynamic speaker. Father wants to have the mission for Lent—late February, early March.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA—Father Jeff**

Father stated that this on-line program was presented to the Parish Staff by Joan Kane. The program, called **Formed** . . . .

*. . . can be compared to Netflix or Amazon Prime for Catholics. Now the best Catholic video studies, movies, audio presentations, and eBooks from the most trusted apostolates are all just a click away.”*

**Formed** is linked to Lighthouse Catholic Media, Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, Word on Fire, Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, and St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology.

Father said that this would be a good outreach and supplement to Sunday Mass, RCIA, and any of our faith formation programs, as well as individual faith formation. He believes this will promote discipleship and stewardship. Instead of a parish mission, *THIS* would be our mission gift to the parish. Parishioners would be provided a password to access **Formed** on-line. The parish would purchase the membership with the help of a diocesan grant.

**PSR COMMUNICATION:** FastDirect Communication service will be provided for our PSR program. Like the school’s FastDirect, it will link parent--via email--to events, information, scheduling, and attendance records for PSR.

**MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS VOLUNTEERS:** The Stewardship Council is looking for volunteers who can help with developing better, more effective ways to communicate with our parishioners. Any interested parties should contact Brad Serfas.

Father concluded our meeting with a prayer in honor of Mary since this month of May is dedicated to Mary.

Our next meeting is June 7<sup>th</sup>

Respectfully submitted by  
Georgann Lautner