

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES AUGUST 2, 2016

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Maria Carrion, Lacey Gelsinger, Rich Hahn, Jim Jatcko, Georgann Lautner, Marisa Nieto, Clyde Nosser, Lauren Serfas, and Mary Westerhold.

ABSENT: Deacon Dan Corbett, Linda Daniels, Arthur Langston, Jeff Litterst, and Nate Vuagniaux.

Jim read the Gospel from Luke for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary time where Jesus talks about the servants who await their master's return. Jesus says those diligent and devoted servants who wait with lighted lamps prepared for their master's return will be rewarded and given more responsibility over the master's property. Those unfaithful servants who do not tend to their responsibilities and do not have things ready for their master's return will be beaten severely and will have their authority over the other servants taken away.

Although acceptable in Jesus' time, the concept of "beating" is disturbing by today's standards. How we discipline these days compared to ancient times or even 30 or 40 or more years ago has evolved a lot over the years. Jim talked about how this Gospel tells us to always be prepared for the hour of Jesus' return. Father talked about the consequences for hurting someone and doing things we shouldn't. Why are people hurting others and themselves? Is there a pattern? Jim suggested that part of the problem is our throw-away culture. We throw away possessions, babies, marriages, life.

Lauren, having just returned from World Youth Day in Poland with Pope Francis, talked about fear in this Year of Mercy. She cited a verse early in the Gospel that says, "Do not be afraid little flock." We look on these negative circumstances of our time, but we can find hope and be hopeful. Perhaps we can't change things individually, but we have a Father who can. Hope helps us move forward.

Robin mentioned a recent meeting with the Ministry Alliance. The speaker was the head of the local NAACP chapter. He ask if we could work together to keep a dialogue going so we can work together through current and future issues. The ensuing discussion had a very hopeful atmosphere.

Father said there is not much mercy in this Gospel.

FORMED

Robin reported that *Formed*, a comprehensive on-line resource from "the most trusted apostolates", is now available to our parish. She will email a code to us so we can view the site. We will officially roll it out in September as part of the Stewardship program as a gift to the parish. Robin will be setting up training sessions and has asked Mary to help with these sessions. Robin will be training the RCIA team on August 29th.

NEW PARISHIONERS MENTORING

Robin continues to work with Linda Daniels on this project to match our new parishioners to current parishioners to help them get better acquainted with our parish and its facilities, functions, and ministries. It will create a more neighborly atmosphere. Father stressed that we as a Pastoral Council need to take this project on and be the initial mentors. In the future, more parishioners can take on these mentoring roles. But we will need to train people. We will need a plan on how to train our people to be "welcomers". We will need to learn how to match people with the same interests; learn and share

NEW PARISHIONERS MENTORING (continued)

information about our parish; provide tours, and; if requested, face to face contact—meeting at Mass, dinner, etc.

Linda and Robin will co-chair this program. Robin will most likely be the person making the initial phone contact with those who have completed the New Parishioner Questionnaire. Suggestions were made to add questions like, “Do you want to be contacted by our Hospitality Committee?” or “Would you like a tour?” Robin asked everyone to look at the New Parishioner form that is on our website and email any suggestions we may have. She would also like input on what we should be talking about with our new parishioners. She would like our suggestions BEFORE our next meeting so we can get this finalized and in our Stewardship booklet. We can also have this ready for the Ministry Fair so we can have a “Welcomer” table set up to recruit volunteers.

MINISTRY FAIR

This event will be October 22/23rd in the Chapel. The new parish stewardship directory will be mailed with a letter inviting the parish to this event. One person per topic each week leading up to Commitment Weekend—November 5/6th. The theme this year will be Place of Grace. The art class at Father McGivney Catholic High School will make a 12 foot replica of the façade of St. Boniface Church. The parishioners will be asked to fill out stars with the graces they have received during this last year as a result of the Year of Mercy. Those stars will then be attached to the façade.

PARTY ON THE PLAZA

This will be Saturday, September 24th after the 4:15pm Mass. The parish will provide chicken, coffee, and tea. Parishioners are asked to bring potluck dishes and their own drinks. The parish will also provide musical entertainment. Robin asked for suggestions and contact information for bands. Father Jeff will sell 50/50 raffle tickets to defray the cost of the chicken and the band. The Stewardship Celebration Committee will also be involved in setting up. In case of inclement weather the event will be held in the Oak Room. Marisa and Maria will make sure the word gets to our Hispanic Community so they can be involved too.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH—Robin Black-Rubenstein

SAK--To date about 3500 lunches have been served. There are 3 weeks left.

Free Lunch Fridays—the number of people attending is increasing. The usual 80-100 lunches served has increased to 100-150 lunches served. Mary mentioned that people come for the fellowship as well as the food.

Ministry Alliance—in an effort to maintain an open dialogue with the community, church and civic leaders this group is working on community forums.

Father Jeff also informed Clyde that there are some students at McGivney who could help him with his outreach program in E. St. Louis. Father will put him in touch with Amanda Pirih, the Faith Director at McGivney.

STEWARDSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP

Father reported our ACSA assessment is up \$9000. Proof that what the Stewardship Council is doing is working. Contributions are up 7%. The number of volunteers is also up.

BONIFEST

The final numbers are in. We took in about \$2000 less than last year. The profit was \$86K. But keep in mind there will be no rummage sale this year. That usually brings in about \$10k.

AUCTION

This will be held October 15th and will be catered by Cleveland Heath.

NEW BUSINESS

YOUTH MINISTRY

Father Jeff reported that Jeremy Kovarik, the literature teacher at McGivney, has been hired to be the new youth minister for the high schoolers (Steeple People). He will work closely with Father Jeff and Robin BR. The group will meet twice a month. Father will be talking to Jill about continuing with Tower Teens.

Clyde talked about an internet forum that links the EHS Icehawks hockey team with the SIU-E hockey team. The adults may throw out a topic to start the discussion and then lets the kids talk about it. The adults just chime in if they see a need to get the discussion back on track. Clyde wondered if this could be something we could use with our youth groups using the internet, Twitter, and texting. A topic can be presented about our faith and the kids can discuss it. They may be more likely to join the discussion this way where they may not in face to face situations. The adults set boundaries but allow a continuous forum. Lauren liked the idea and could see where some kids would get involved this way when they ordinarily wouldn't. Mary thought it's a good way to get kids connected, because it's kid driven. She also suggested having them do this on a closed secret group on Facebook. Father will discuss it with Jeremy. Clyde offered to talk to Jeremy, too, and show him his team Group pages.

Robin mentioned that *Formed* also has a youth ministry group.

FREQUENT FLYERS: Father mentioned to Lacey that this group needs to meet soon. Maybe they can do something in conjunction with Party on the Plaza. Kornbags, perhaps?

COMMUNICATIONS: Father mentioned that changes are being made in how we communicate. Our website is being redesigned. Much is being done to help all of us communicate better using all forms of media.

MISSION WEEKEND: August 13/14th weekend we will be hosting Father Juan Manuel Comacho from the Community of St. Paul to give us our annual missionary appeal.

SEMINARIANS: Our seminarians will be leaving on the 12th

FRATERNUS: This exclusive male event is scheduled for September 17th, from 9am to 4pm here at St. Boniface in the Oak Room. Father expects that all the men from this Council will be attending. They can also help with greeting and welcoming. We may ask some of our ushers to help out in that area, too. Father also mentioned that this group will need a commander. Men need to step up and be messengers of the Gospel.

PERMANENT DEACONATE: Clyde reported that after finishing his first year of training for the permanent diaconate, the diocese has suspended the program for a year because of the small class size. The diocese will recruit more men and get them caught up in their lessons. These additional candidates will join Clyde and his group next year to continue on. In the interim, Clyde plans to pick up some classes at Aquinas.

Father ended our meeting with prayer.

Our next meeting will be September 6th.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner