

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES OCTOBER 4, 2016

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Deacon Dan Corbett, Linda Daniels, Rich Hahn, Georgann Lautner, Jeff Litterst, Clyde Nossier, Bruce Thorley, and Nate Vuagniaux.

ABSENT: Maria Carrion, Nathan Dammerich, Lacey Gelsing, Arthur Langston, Marisa Nieto, and Mary Westerhold.

Linda read the Gospel from Luke for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Georgann read the reflection. The Gospel tells the story of Jesus' encounter with the ten lepers who beg for mercy and healing. Jesus instructs these ten to go show themselves to the priests. On their journey they find they have indeed been cleansed, but only one returns, a Samaritan, to praise God and thank Jesus. Jesus asks where the others are and points out that only the "foreigner"—a despised Samaritan—returned to give thanks. Jesus affirmed to the man that his faith had saved him.

Both the leprosy and his being a Samaritan ostracized this man from society.

"Into this situation of hopelessness, the power of God comes to save and heal. The leprosy of sin still haunts our world but can no longer alienate us from God or one another. We have been set free from its power. May our gratitude and praise be genuine and complete."

(Sunday Prayer for Catholics 2016, LTP)

Jeff mentioned how we have so many blessings but forget to acknowledge them and pay them forward. We talked about the barrage of political ads that are common during election seasons, but they seem to particularly vicious this year. Father talked about his concerns for the outcome of these upcoming elections. How did "outrageous" catch on? And it's on both sides. How does it affect our kids? Is it OK to call people names? Is it OK now to lie? He's still considering going back to the passage from Ezekiel 34:1 - 11 and replacing "shepherd" with "politician".

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Father welcomed our new member to the Pastoral Council—Bruce Thorley. Father was impressed that Bruce actually volunteered for the job. Bruce told us he has been married for 39 years to his wife, Patty. They have lived in the area all their lives. Patty is a reading buddy at the parish school, and Bruce has been working with Deacon Dan and the St. Vincent DePaul Society for over a year. He is recently retired and is happy to spend his time to get some meaningful things done. Welcome, Bruce!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRATERNUS PLANNING MEETING: October 6th at 6:30pm. Rob Savant has accepted the position of Parish Commander. Once past this formative stage, this group will meet once a week for Frat Nights. These meetings begin with 20 minutes of physical activity. Fraternus suggests dodge ball, but we're not sure where they will play. After the game there is a video presentation. Then they break up into small groups. Fraternus stresses physical, spiritual, and formative growth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

YOUTH MINISTRY: Robin reported that she is in search of more non-intrusive adults. Joan Green and Georgann have been filling this position for a couple of years now and would like some occasional relief. So Robin has found three others to help out. If she can find three more, then each pair would only have to help out with food, set up, and clean up once every two months. Father also mentioned that Hunter Klette has volunteered to help Jeremy in the class setting.

ALTON DEANERY MEETING: They will meet here at St. Boniface on October 11th at 11:30am.

CREDO 102 SESSIONS: Living the Laws of Love through the Beatitudes. These sessions will begin October 13th at 6:30pm. Other opportunities are November 20th at 1:30 pm; January 24th at 7pm; February 16th at 7pm, and; February 22nd at 6:30pm. All sessions will be held in the Oak Room of the lower level. All parents of children receiving the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation at St. Boniface are required to attend one of these sessions. All parents of students at St. Boniface and Father McGivney High School are encouraged to attend. All parishioners are invited to attend. (*Evergreen*)

STB AUCTION: October 15th at 5:15pm. So far there are 110 reservations. Father has a special item relevant to the old St. Mary's Church that he is considering putting up for auction.

STB SCHOOL GRANDPARENTS DAY: Next Thursday.

EPISCOPALIAN (ST. ANDREWS) SYNOD: Friday and Saturday, October 21st and 22nd. They will hold their services in their church but use our Oak Room for their meetings.

MINISTRY FAIR: In the Chapel the weekend of October 22/23rd. (More to come in these minutes)

NO MASS OR RCIA ON HALLOWEEN, Monday, October 31st.

STEWARDSHIP SERIES: A Place of Grace. The image of the steeple in the church gathering area is awesome. Nate reported the Series kicked-off with the Party on the Plaza. Some commented they wished it would have lasted longer. Father mentioned the unusually hot evening may have chased some away. They ate, milled a little, and left. But it was a great success. Georgann thanked the Stewardship Celebration Committee and their work with food preparations, serving, and clean up. They threw a great party!

Starting the weekend of October 16th, the witness talks will begin on spirituality, service and sacrifice. There was a Stewardship Newsletter in this last bulletin. The council hopes to be able to continue this beyond the series. The Parish Stewardship Booklets, sign-up pamphlets, and Formed cards will be mailed very soon. There were some printing issues, and were waiting for replacements.

COMMITMENT WEEKEND: November 5/6th.

REVIEWS

RESPECT LIFE PRAYER CHAIN: There were about 75 people there. This was one of our bigger turn outs. Deacon mentioned that participation in the Life Chain was emphasized at the Knights of Columbus meeting.

FORMED.ORG RELEASED: Formed is up and running. Father has received some favorable comments on the program. Robin mentioned that it is being used as a teaching tool in the RCIA classes. All agreed it was a good investment.

PROSPER ADVISING: Father is meeting with them next week. He is preparing a letter to the Bishop to get official approval to move ahead. Father asked who was able to attend the informational meeting, and a few had. Nate mentioned that many questions and concerns were brought up. Prosper had good answers. Nate had asked about Prosper's failure rate to make the goals. Since Prosper doesn't really set a goal, they can't really fail. However, both parties do have expectations. Prosper feels they are good at making sure expectations are realistic. Nevertheless, should we decide that this program is not moving in an optimal direction, we have eight months to opt out. We still pay a portion of the fee, but we do have an out. Prosper is very confident that we will not need to use that. Also, we need this campaign—now and in the future. Prosper is a mentoring program. It will teach us how to be good fundraisers which will benefit us long after our contract runs out with them. It will give us fundraising skills that will benefit the parish for years to come. Not to mention they are giving us a sizeable discount on their fees.

SOCIAL JUSTICE—Deacon Dan

Deacon reported that he and other representatives from St. Vincent DePaul went before the Allocation Committee of the United Way and asked for \$25K. They explained that our three area parishes which this chapter of SVDP serves has historically matched the United Way's grant \$2 to their \$1. Our coffers are pretty depleted due to the State of Illinois not helping out this summer with power bill subsidies. SVDP was the go-to organization to keep the lights on in many homes in our area. Deacon is pretty confident that the United Way will grant their request. It will depend, too, on how well their fund drive goes.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION—Robin Black-Rubenstein

7 Deadly Sins—7 Lively Virtues has begun. Robin reported she has to keep ordering more books. Over 30 people are participating in the two times the class is offered.

Theology Uncorked: There was a very good turn-out for the first session. It gave Robin an opportunity, too, to distribute a flyer inviting people to the next two sessions.

Free Lunch Fridays: Strong, committed group. Deacon Dan reported that through this program Robin was able to work a homeless case with the help of Social Safety Net and the United Methodist Church. This organization helps to make the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon area aware that there is help, and it also helps to keep us informed of the goings on in our community.

BUSINESS

MINISTRY FAIR AND THE PASTORAL COUNCIL ROLE: Father reported that Michael and Bill will have the tables set up in the Chapel before noon on Friday, October 21st. The Stewardship Celebration Committee will take care of light refreshments. Ministry leaders will be notified to make sure they have their signs, advertisements, and sign-up sheets. (I believe Benna has emailed these leaders) Pastoral Council members should choose a Mass preference and will act as greeters before Mass and hand out the stewardship pamphlets as people come into church. Then they can man the Pastoral Council table after Mass. Georgann is to email the Pastoral Council members to set up a schedule of greeters and workers at each Mass. Jeff and Linda have volunteered for 4:15 Mass. We should have at least two representatives from Pastoral Council at each Mass.

STB PLANNING COMMISSION—STB 2019 150th ANNIVERSARY

Father reported that he will be meeting with various groups and get their “needs”—especially the school. Essential work has already begun before winter sets in.

- The brick on the west wall of the new church is being sealed.
- Flashing on the reservation tower is being reconfigured to prevent water pooling and seepage.
- The decorative brickwork (capping) is being sealed to prevent water coming through.
- The exterior of the windows are being caulked.
- Repairs on the ramps will be finished by November.

They are still discussing how to proceed on the awning entrance. Can we “band-aid” it and do the big fix next summer? How much more interior damage would it cause to wait? Work on the old church—tuck-pointing, louvers, etc.—will begin next summer as well as sealing the brick on the rest of the church. Father is very pleased with the performance and employees from Precision Industrial.

Father has also talked to someone about electrifying the bells. He recommended that the bells be cleaned and oiled once a year and they be made stationery. Automated clangors can be programed to strike on demand. The cost--\$23K.

Another of our immediate needs is the AC in the church. It’s either on full blast or off. Bids are being obtained, and it’s looking like the cost will be around \$80K.

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULES

Thanksgiving—Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, at 6:45pm

Christmas Eve—4:15pm, 8:15pm (Spanish), 10:15pm.

Day—8:15 am

NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY

Though we have receive many compliments on how welcoming our parish is, we recognize that people—new, old, visitors—can't seem to locate various facilities. Father said we need better signs—perhaps a map or visitors kiosk. He will be working on that.

Linda reported that they have put some of their planning on hold until the Stewardship Directory is sent. Robin continues to make those initial calls to new registrants. She is hopeful that a younger group of people will volunteer to work on this ministry since many of our new parishioners are young families. She suggested that maybe the Stewardship Council could point some of their people to this ministry. Linda said she could help at this table for the Ministry Fair.

OTHER BUSINESS

Father showed us the ad we have taken out in the *Intelligencer's Community Guide*. "Join Us" at our church, school, and high school.

Father suggested and we agreed that we should have Exposition on Election Day. Prayers are needed for our country—now, more than ever.

OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

Father reported that Mary has resigned from Pastoral Council. She has a conflict on Tuesday nights. Thank you, Mary, for your service and all that you continue to do for our parish!

Our next meeting will be MONDAY, November 7th at 6:30. (Tuesday is Election Day)

Father closed the meeting with prayer--*Hail, Mary!*

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner

ST. BONIFACE, PRAY FOR US!