

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES NOVEMBER 7, 2016

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Maria Carrion, Nathan Dammerich, Linda Daniels, Lacey Gelsinger, Rich Hahn, Georgann Lautner, Clyde Nosser, Bruce Thorley, and Nate Vuagniaux.

ABSENT: Deacon Dan Corbett, Arthur Langston, Jeff Litterst, and Marisa Nieto.

We welcomed our new member to the Pastoral Council, Nate Dammerich. Nate is a sophomore at Father McGivney Catholic High School and is involved in many activities there such as soccer, math team and robotics. He admits he has some pretty big shoes to fill as he takes over the position once held by Lauren Serfas. Welcome Nate!

Rich read the Gospel from Luke for the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Linda read the reflection. In this reading, Jesus talks about the end times—the destruction of the temple, the coming of false prophets, the rising of nation against nation, the proliferation of natural disasters. He tells them that before all this happens, his followers will be persecuted and handed over and some even put to death. Jesus tells them that he himself will give them the wisdom to give testimony and that they need not prepare their defense beforehand. “You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on our head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives.” Lk 21:18-19

The reflection talks about indestructible Jewish hope in the “Day of the Lord.”

*“...he (Jesus) tells his followers not to be terrified when disturbing events occur but to remain faithful and place their complete faith in God. Let us do the same.”
(Sunday Prayer for Catholics 2016, LTP)*

This on the eve of the election is a pretty scary Gospel. Robin talked about a documentary she watched recently that dealt with the subject of the indestructible Jewish hope. Father wondered what the sentiment would be after Tuesday’s election. Apprehension. Unhappiness. Will tribal politics continue where they will continue to work against each other? Rich talked about how the politicians we support are reflections of the people they represent. History shows us that times of great wealth and prosperity tend to divert our attention away from holy and righteous thoughts and living. These times are often met with horrible events such as war, pestilence, and plagues. In these maladies we have a tendency to pull together for the common good. In our country’s own history we see examples of this in the 1850-60’s, in the 1920’s, in the 1950’s and now in the technology boom. Big, bad events clear the air.

Father referred to the term “Son of Justice”, which was mentioned in the reflection, has been a common theme among the Hebrews for centuries and is not exclusively used in referring to Jesus. The Son of Justice brings healing and salvation. Father asked us to pray for conversion—open mind and open spirit for whoever runs our country.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CREDO 102 SESSIONS: Robin BR said that the first session went well with about 25 people attending. There wasn't much participation in discussion, but Father told her that the amount of participation varies with the participants. The next session is this November 20th followed by a couple in February and one in March 2017.

AUCTION/DINNER: Father reported this event did very well. They had a goal of \$21K to be used for technology updates for classrooms. They got \$28K. This money will purchase Promethean ActivPanel Interactive Touchscreens, and to update smart boards. They also had a goal of \$80K to resurface the pre-school playground with rubber chips. Donations came in quickly and the project has been completed. It was agreed that this event is more successful when it is held in our gym rather than off-site.

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULES

Thanksgiving—Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, at 6:45pm. Bread and wine for the holiday meal will be blessed.

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

Day—8:15 am

REPORTS

FAITH FORMATION—ROBIN

Seven Deadly Sins/Seven Lively Virtues: This program is about half way through. These sessions are well attended by a range of ages and have generated some great conversations. Robin plans to have an evening where we can watch all the videos at once.

Living the Eucharist: This is our Lenten program. Robin said the books were on sale, so she went ahead and ordered them.

Women of Mercy: This is a pilot prayer group directed by the diocese which prays for specific intentions. This is going well.

Free Lunch Fridays: This is a popular program. It, too, is going well and has a fun crew. Robin reported that along with providing a meal for the homeless and poor—which are sometimes bussed in from out of town—this weekly event is well attended by others who are not in need but come for the community. All are welcome.

Ministerial Alliance: This is an organization made up of local clergy from all denominations and pastoral associates who work together for the good and needs of the community. The Safety Net program works with this group, too, to help those in need connect with the agencies that can provide assistance and guidance.

Theology Uncorked: Father David Uribe, O.M.I. will be the speaker at the next session to be held December 1st in the Acorn Room at 6:30-8:00. His topic will be Mary, Mother to Us All.

REPORTS (continued)

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL—Nate V.

Nate reported that this council is wrapping up their 2016 campaign and looking at what worked and what didn't. They are brainstorming what new things they can do. They plan to continue with their newsletter insert in the bulletin. We agreed that the couples who did the witness talks at the Masses were effective as there were good responses to those talks. They await the results in the form of increase in people in service positions and in donations. Father agreed that the presenters did a fine job, but we neglected our Spanish community.

Our councils were disappointed in the response to our Ministry Fair. Father said the ministry brochure is a good document, however it is not very effective. He suggested putting 20 second video clips online on our website showing people in service—ushers, servers, ministers of Holy Communion, etc.—basically putting the brochure online. This could be a service project for our McGivney kids. Linda stated that the brochure is a good example of how many people are needed to help run the church and school and the campus.

Nate mentioned that the committee has talked about the possible need to streamline this aspect of the committee. Perhaps have a Ministry Chairman. This is someone who would know where the need is for people and financing. Stewardship and Pastoral Councils need to work together to make sure all the needs of the parish are known and met.

YOUTH MINISTRY—Robin/ FJ

Robin reported that there were only 6 kids at Youth Group last night compared to 30 or so at the meeting two weeks ago. Last night was a service project night where the kids made gift bags for some of the residents at Edwardsville Care Center. Jeremy plans to have a fun night at the next meeting with a Thanksgiving theme. Nate D. said we need something to attract the high school age kids. So many of the activities are geared more to the middle school age group. Father suggested that the high schoolers take a more active role in presenting, leading, and mentoring. Nate agreed with that idea. Robin will talk to Jeremy about involving the high schoolers more in leadership roles.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

aka Frequent Faith Flyers. Father suggested getting someone to take this group over. He wants them to meet at the beginning of the first of the year and pick some leadership and plan at least four events for the year.

PARISH SCHOOL AND FMCHS—FJ

Both are doing well. Father said that the recent open house was the largest ever. There will be a pretty healthy freshman class next year with 15 from our parish school and 5 from our PSR program planning to attend FMCHS in 2017-18 school year. Father said to break even they need 80 kids per class. They are almost there.

BUSINESS

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BRAINSTORMING—FJ

Father reported that the Bishop has signed off on our contracting with Prosper Advising to help us raise funds to do some much needed work on the church, school, parish office, and parish campus in general. We only await the official letter from the Bishop.

In the meantime, Precision Industrial has completed the first phase of repairs—ramps, ledges (except for Vandalia Street which will be done next summer), and sealing the west wall. Father was happy to report that after that last big rain, there was no water in the church. He is very pleased with the outcome and looks of this project. The big project will begin after Bonifest 2017. The total bill will be around \$500K.

The new air conditioning unit has been ordered and will be installed in the church at the cost of \$86K.

Financially, we are \$1.7mil in debt. The school is working on its wish/need list. The Parish Office needs tuck pointing and has recently replaced its 60 year old heating system at the cost of \$11K. The yellow house comes down in the spring. The church is dark and needs better lights. Focus groups are being formed to outline the needs and the costs of those needs to be presented in our capital campaign to meet the goals of our 5-year plan and beyond.

Prosper Advising says we can raise \$4mil to \$5mil.

STB2019 PLANNING COMMISSION AND 150TH ANNIVERSARY

This commission will be starting to plan the year-long celebration and is looking for volunteers to help with this project. How do we want to celebrate? When do we want to start and end the celebration? Anyone want to plan a parade? Serious planning needs to begin early next year.

LUCY LIGHTS

Georgann would like to put up our Christmas (Lucy) lights the Friday after Thanksgiving. Nate D. will see if there are any McGivney kids who are willing to help and/or who need service hours.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 6th.

Father closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner

St. Boniface pray for us!