

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES JANUARY 3, 2017

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Nathan Dammerich, Lacey Gelsinger, Rich Hahn, Jeff Litterst, Georgann Lautner, Marisa Nieto, Clyde Nossier, Bruce Thorley, and Nate Vuagniaux. Also present was our new member, Jason Dreyer.

ABSENT: Maria Carrion, Deacon Dan Corbett, Linda Daniels, and Arthur Langston.

Our meeting opened with Nate V. reading the Gospel for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Matthew's familiar Gospel tells the story of the magi who travelled from the east in search of the newborn king of the Jews. They followed the star that led them to the child and his mother, Mary, and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Clyde read the reflection which explained that epiphany means "manifestation," "enlightenment," and "revelation." We are asked to "commemorate the journey of the magi today by prayerfully reflecting on your journey toward Christ, and the ways that your route has been changed." (*Sunday Prayer for Catholics 201, LTP*)

Jeff talked about how sometimes he feels closer to God than other times. Nate V. observed that Christmas gets so congested and people forget the real reason for the season. Some don't realize the real length of the season. Decorations are down and trees are on the curb on December 26th. Some suffer from depression. Things get out of control. Expectations aren't met.

Some like to make the season last as long as possible. Father pointed out that the real end to the Christmas season is the Baptism of the Lord. The hub-bub is all a part of the celebration. Join in and embrace it because for some that is their only connection to the holiday. Without it, recognition of this most special and holy day would disappear altogether for them. Incarnation, manifestation, revelation—these should happen every day!

REVIEW

CHRISTMAS EVE AND MORNING MASSES

4:15 pm—not quite as zoo-y. This is a big evangelization Mass and it needs to be a better experience. The choir needs to be stronger—perhaps some of the adult choir should be there to supplement the kids' choir. We have an opportunity to reach out to Catholics who only come at Christmas and Easter and draw them in. Before next Christmas Eve we hope to make some changes to presentation and put some focus on evangelization.

10:15 pm—Plenty of room. The adult choir was excellent. It was a very pleasant and relaxed experience.

8:15 am—Father Jeff and Father John from England co-presided. Deacon Dan preached.

REVIEW (continued)

CHRISTMAS EVE AND MORNING MASSES

7:15 pm—(Spanish Mass) Father suggested to let the Spanish community and Father Paul decide when they would like to celebrate Christmas Mass. Marisa said that the Christmas Eve Mass is not a good time because it doesn't fit well in their customary celebration. She said the Spanish community would probably prefer to have Mass on Christmas day at their regular Mass time—12:15pm.

MINISTRY COORDINATORS MEETING

Father distributed the minutes from this meeting that was held November 15th with the various ministry coordinators. Father reviewed the report, and we spent some time talking about ministries that could stand some improvements. For instance: ushers. Though we have some good ushers, we have some who we can consider as just collectors. They generally sit with their family and come back to help take up the collection. Father suggested we need more “Eddie-types”—more aggressive. They should be greeters, seaters, security, hospitality, guides, hosts, and movers. The head of the ushers, Dave Knetzer, will take his observations and make his recommendations. The role of this group needs to be updated. Father stressed, again, that ushers should not be bringing the gifts up. This writer pointed out that it's surprising how many people say “no” to the invitation.

Another area discussed was the Readers. Father asked what we thought about having two people reading the petitions like we had at the Christmas Masses. Feedback has been pretty positive. People said they paid better attention to these intercessory prayers. We will try this again during Lent. We discussed the issue of not being able to hear readers. Father would like to reinstitute the sound mixer. Jill has this program on her iPad. Someone simply needs to sit back by the St. Francis statue during all the Masses and adjust volumes as needed on that iPad. There is a stipend involved. Father thought about asking some McGivney students to take the job. Nate D. is interested.

Father also mentioned that some things may be changing with the way Ministers of Holy Communion line up; when they step up to the altar; etc. He also talked about dress codes—or lack thereof—and when the announcements would be presented. He suggested having the cantor read them before Mass. We may try that during Lent.

Note: a copy of the minutes from the Ministry Coordinators Meeting is attached to these minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVENANT RADIO—will be here at all Masses the weekend of January 7/8th.

STB PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING—January 16th at 6:30 pm.

PRE-CANA—January 21st at 9:30 am – 4:15 pm.

TRIVIA NIGHT—January 21st at 6:30 pm.

CREDO SESSIONS—these continue—Next session, Tuesday, January 24th at 7pm.

STBK3—Koinonia retreat—March 2-5th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

BUILDING A VIBRANT PARISH WORKSHOP—Presented by LPI—January 19th—all are welcome. This will be held from 10am to 2pm. Registration at 9:30.

DIOCESAN SYNOD:

The Bishop of the Diocese is to call a synod every 10 years. This synod is being held to promote stewardship, discipleship, and evangelization. Bishop Paprocki's letter and synod schedule is attached to these minutes. Meetings will be held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield and will also have Skyped listening sessions. The letter is addressed to and invites Pastors, Parochial Administrators, and Pastoral Facilitators and also invites Lay Disciple Parish Representatives of our Stewardship and Discipleship Committees.

FAITH FORMATION—Robin Black-Rubenstein

Grief Support—this group is planning some social events.

Catechist Workshop—being held on Wednesday.

STBK3—(Koinonia retreat) organization meeting on Thursday

Book Study—Sessions held on Tuesday evenings and repeated on Thursday mornings beginning Tuesday, January 17th and Thursday, January 26th. The study subject is the book, *The Divine Dance—Living the Mystery of the Trinity*. It will also involve scripture from John's Gospel and from Acts. This is a 5 week course.

Living the Eucharist-- begins March 1st (Ash Wednesday). Robin will be contacting groups in the next couple of weeks.

Angel Tree—55 Christmas gifts were bought for residents in local care centers.

Youth Ministry—the schedule has been made to the end of the season. This Sunday, January 8th, they will meet at Edison's. Kids 12-17 are welcome and encouraged to attend. Father will be asking Jeremy Kovarik, our youth minister, to start attending our Pastoral Council meetings.

STEWARDSHIP—Nate Vuagniaux

Nate V. reported that the Stewardship Committee wrapped up their 2016 campaign at the end of November and determined the response to be a little disappointing. Less than 5% returned the commitment forms and around 7% returned the surveys. The Ministry Fair was not at all successful. He mentioned doing something on the parish website with video blurbs presenting the various opportunities to serve. Nate stressed again the need for a database to keep track of parishioners and ministers and try and help point the uninvolved to ministries that might interest them. He also highly suggested selecting a Ministry Chair—someone who would coordinate with all the ministry heads and report to the Stewardship Committee and to the Pastoral Council.

Lacey mentioned being at Metro Church recently for an event and noticed how they have stations set up with information on their various ministries. She suggested doing something similar in a single stand and have the ministries rotate every weekend or month. Father is very much in favor of constructing an information booth/hostess station in the lobby. It would provide information, ATM, update membership information, sell scrip, sign up for e-giving, etc. . This writer mentioned a little attack of

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (continued)

de ja vu. We talked about this about 3 years ago with Renew. Some churches have their church offices open on Sundays. That's when the people are there. Bruce suggested putting up a flat screen that exclusively presents the various ministries. Clyde suggested an excellent book by Matthew Kelly on stewardship

Nate stated that many of these options are being discussed by the Stewardship Committee as they plan their strategy for the 2017 campaign.

PARISH SCHOOL AND FMCH

Father reported that he invited the Bishop to visit our parish school and Father McGivney Catholic High School during Catholic Schools Week. Bishop Paprocki accepted the invitation and will be here for Mass on February 1st at 10:30 am. All are welcome. Bishop will then visit classrooms at both campuses.

FRATERNUS—Jason Dreyer

Jason reported that all the positions are filled. The commander is Rob Savant. Their next meeting is January 12th. Father had hoped to hold the first Fraternus event in mid-February. Jason thinks that may be too soon. This group needs to grow some brotherhood first to make a good core group. This first event needs to be really special and it won't be unless everyone is on the same page and enters with the same enthusiasm and commitment.

Jason mentioned the tendency with Fraternus—as with some other groups—that if Father isn't directly involved the program feels like it doesn't have wheels. He realizes that Father cannot lead this group. Others need to step up and lead. We've seen other groups struggle over the same issue—Frequent Flyers, Steeple People—but this group must find its community within a community. How do you foster that? Father made an example of the Stewardship Committee. This is a group that works on its own because they know each other and are committed to the parish. They realize the need to grow peoples' relationships with Christ and the need to foster community and evangelize. Small groups help to grow those relationships with God and with each other.

Fraternus—and Formed, also—are programs the parish has made big investments in. We have to be good stewards of what we've invested in.

FMCHS—Father noted there are 61 incoming freshman. Mike Scholz is no longer principal and the search is on for his replacement. There have been a few interested in the position. Bobbie Madura is serving as interim principal.

BUSINESS

STB2019 CELEBRATIONS—kick off for our 150th celebration will be in October 2018 and will end in October 2019.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BRAINSTORMING—Father will be choosing people (6-8) to serve on the cabinet. They will be representative the parish community and work with Prosper Advising. They, with Father, will be key decision makers in regards to the campaign. Some of these cabinet members will come from the STB2019 Planning Commission which has done quite a bit of the research over the past year to help kick this campaign off. In the meantime, Father ask this council that if they see a particular need in the parish to let him or this cabinet know. Georgann mentioned that there have been some complaints about the kneelers in the church. The padding is falling apart; supports are missing; screws are coming through the pads. Father facetiously suggested removing the kneelers altogether—and provided some information on their Protestant origins. Work on the old church will begin in June—after Bonifest.

BONIFEST AND THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY—Marisa inquired about the Spanish community's involvement at Bonifest. They would like to have a food booth. Father said she would need to contact the Bonifest chairperson, Ryan Hentz. Father will get that contact information to Marisa.

Father ended our meeting with a prayer for evangelization and that we would all grow closer to Christ.

Our next meeting is February 7th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully presented by
Georgann Lautner

Side note:

Lacey asked about the significance of the gifts presented by the magi—gold, frankincense and myrrh.

*... Bringing our gifts for the newborn Savior
All that we have, whether costly or meek
Because we believe.
Gold for his honor, and frankincense for his pleasure
And myrrh for the cross he will suffer
Do you believe?*

(Lyrics from Sidewalk Prophets' song, *How Many Kings?*)

Joyous Epiphany!!