

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES FEBRUARY 7, 2017

ATTENDEES: Robin Black-Rubenstein, Deacon Dan Corbett, Nathan Dammerich, Jason Dreyer, Lacey Gelsinger, Rich Hahn, Arthur Langston, Georgann Lautner, Jeff Litterst, Clyde Nossner, Bruce Thorley, and Nate Vuagniaux.

ABSENT: Father Jeff Goeckner, Maria Carrion, Linda Daniels, and Marisa Nieto.

Robin opened the meeting with prayer. Lacey read the Gospel for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Jeff read the reflection. The Gospel from Matthew is a continuation of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus explains he has not come to abolish the law and then challenges “us to go beyond it.”

“Jesus calls us to see others, not as objects that might fill our desires but as subjects made in God’s image. In all of what Jesus says, he gives priority to the dignity God has bestowed upon humankind.” (*Sunday Prayer for Catholics 201, LTP*)

How do we respond to His call?

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL REPORT—Nate Vuagniaux

Nate reported that the Council just met the night before. They decided that rather than plan a year at a time, they will be initiating a 5-7 year plan. This year they will be working toward growing our spirituality. The goal is to evolve our parishioners into thoughtful disciples. They will be introducing people to the various adult faith formation opportunities by means of quarterly newsletters and testimonials from the different ministries both at Mass and on social media. Nate said it would be difficult to discern the effectiveness of their efforts. However, Robin mentioned that we have to report annually to the diocese how many people take advantage of our various faith formation programs—including PSR and RCIA(C). It’s not an exact number, but it could be a means to measure response. Deacon Dan mentioned that the Diocesan Synod has suggested increasing opportunities for Exposition. Perhaps the council could incorporate that into their message to increase spirituality. Nate also mentioned that there will not be a Commitment Sunday this year. They thought they’d give it a rest and try it again later.

Side note: Robin asked Deacon if he had heard anything about the Pope having a 24 Hours for the Lord this year. It is usually held in March and coincides with our Koinonia. Deacon wasn’t sure, but would check.

DEACON DAN REPORT

Deacon reported that there has been a leadership change with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Jan Caban is now leading the group. He also reported that the number of calls are down but expects that to change as soon as the weather warms up and stays warm. At that point, Ameren will start turning off power due to unpaid bills.

Deacon also reported that he and Sister Kathleen Ann blessed many throats last Friday on the Feast of St. Blaise.

YOUTH MINISTRY—Robin Black-Rubenstein

Jeremy was unable to attend this evening. Robin reported that Jeremy has been trying to start youth group meetings with gym time; then fellowship and snacks, and; then lessons. Jennifer Hefferlin has signed on to help Jeremy. Jennifer is a former parishioner who has recently moved back to Edwardsville from Texas. She was active in the youth ministry at her former parish and is a welcome addition to this ministry. We also have several people working the food ministry for this group—aka unintrusive adults. Thanks to these folks, too—Bruce and Patty Thorley, Barb Leardi and Judy McClue, and Joan Green and Georgann Lautner.

FRATERNUS—Jason Dreyer

Jason reported that back in November the group talked about starting their Frat Nights and realized that they needed more time to train and time to learn to work together as a unit. The leaders have been meeting every week as a group to work to this end. This organization is designed to function from the beginning of the school year to the end of the school year. This bonding time for the leaders will help them to be better prepared by the 2017-18 school year. They currently have nine leaders and hope to have more by the time they start. Jason also reported that Frat Nights are supposed to start with some sort of physical activity—dodgeball is suggested. In that case they will need the gym facilities. The group will need to coordinate with the school and church as far as availability of gym and meeting facilities on the same night and that AV equipment is available also. Jason also said he will be asking Father to drop in on a meeting or two to touch base on a few items.

Side note: Jason mentioned that Catholic Men for Christ will be meeting at UMSL on Saturday, February 18th.

FMCHS—Nate Dammerich

Nate reported that the second semester is underway. Everyone is sick. (Flu season) The custodial staff is working daily to sanitize the building to stop the sickness from spreading.

SPANISH COMMUNITY—Robin

Robin reported that the Hispanic Community has started some prayer groups. They have been meeting Friday evenings in the Chapel. Alma Pederson has been working closely with this ministry. This community has celebrated many baptisms and weddings, too. They continue to thrive.

RCIA

There are about 12 catechumens and candidates in this RCIA class. On March 5th this group will attend the 10:15 am Mass for the Rite of Sending. That afternoon they will travel to the Cathedral in Springfield for the Rite of Acceptance. RCIC is being taught in two groups. There are about 12-13 in those groups. Nancy Hanson is preparing children for their First Holy Communion. Dave Knetzer is preparing older children for Confirmation. Robin said that there will be 72 young people confirmed by Bishop Paprocki on March 26th. This includes the RCIC class, St. Boniface School students, and PSR students. The Spanish community is very much involved in the RCIA/RCIC programs.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE REPORT—Robin Black-Rubenstein

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Book Study—The Divine Dance. There are two groups that meet Wednesday nights and Thursday mornings. Great conversations and discussions. This has been a good pre-Lenten break.

Living the Eucharist. This will be the third year for this program which will focus on the readings and Lectio. There are seven open groups and several established groups that plan to incorporate *Living the Eucharist* into their regular programs. Mary Westerhold will host the on-line group. James and Kayla Cowell will host the young adult group.

Koinonia. Fifteen people have signed up for our annual parish retreat to be held the weekend of March 3rd-5th. Robin reported that some alumni have taken on leadership roles.

Credo. Then last two sessions will be held this month on the 16th and 22nd. PSR eighth graders will be attending the February 22nd session.

First Reconciliation. This will be the afternoon of March 5th.

Grief Support Group. They have been planning some outings. Valentine's Day they will be lunching at Bella Milano's. They hope to plan some community outreach activities, too.

Free Lunch Friday. St. Boniface is scheduled to supervise this program on the 2nd and 5th Fridays of the month.

Ministerial Alliance. Meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Facilities for these meetings are now being provided at the Mannie Jackson Center of Humanities Foundation.

SAK. This is a program that provides sack lunches for school kids during the summer. They will start meeting in April to plan for the summer of 2017.

Community Outreach—Clyde

Clyde continues to work with the EHS hockey team to help out the E. St. Louis food bank. Next school year he hopes to combine the efforts of EHS and McGivney students to work together in this outreach program.

YOUNG ADULTS/FREQUENT FLYERS

Robin turned to our young adults on this council for ideas and suggestions on how to jumpstart this group of people. The original intention was to start them out as a social group with the hope it would evolve into a spiritual fellowship. Lacey, Jason, and Arthur explained that this age group has a lot going on. It becomes a choice between spending time with family and spending time with the church group. Often the family wins out. They talked about the need to have a couple of core organizers who would delegate the activities to the group. Monthly meetings are too much. Quarterly meetings are probably more doable. Arthur mentioned that the group started in the summer and didn't meet once the holidays got into full swing. After Christmas, interest had dwindled. He suggested restarting in January. Get the fire going and growing. More people get involved and they talk about the different ministries they are involved in. This will increase interest in people trying out different ministerial experiences. He talked about piggy-backing on events like Party on the Plaza, Trivia Night, the golf tournament, etc.

Robin asked if there was anything else we needed or wanted to discuss. No one had anything to add.

Robin ended our meeting with the *Glory be...*

Our next meeting will be March 7th.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner

St. Boniface pray for us!