

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES MARCH 6, 2018

ATTENDEES: Father Jeff Goeckner, Robin Black-Rubenstein, Deacon Dan Corbett, Linda Daniels, Lacey Gelsing, Georgann Lautner, Marisa Nieto, Clyde Nosser, Bruce Thorley and Nate Vuagniaux.

ABSENT: Maria Carrion, Nathan Dammerich, Jason Dreyer, Arthur Langston, Jeff Litterst, and Deacon Fernando Soloman.

Father opened our meeting. Nate proclaimed the Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Clyde read the reflection. In John's Gospel,

"Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.' For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

Jesus goes on to explain that those who do evil live in the darkness where they can keep their evil ways hidden.

"But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."

In the reflection we hear how John chose his word to often have double meaning. Here we not only have the image of Jesus being "lifted up" on the cross at his execution but also refers to him being "lifted up" in exaltation to his seat of glory and victory at the right hand of the Father.

"Looking upon it (the Cross), we encounter the depth of divine love for us." (Sunday Prayer for Catholics 2018, LTP)

This writer recalled the discussion at Lectio the night before at RCIA. I liked the comparison of the imagery of Moses' serpent and of Jesus' Cross. In the desert, serpents were sent to punish the Israelites. The seraphs bit the people causing pain, suffering, and death. But, if the people looked with faith upon the image of the serpent on Moses' staff, they would be healed. The Cross was the source of pain, suffering, and death for Jesus. But, if we look at the Cross with faith, we see His love poured out for us and find our salvation.

Deacon explained that John's Gospel was written last and completes the other three Gospels. It fills in the blanks. Father said the early church thought the cross to be a scandal. It wasn't until around 422 AD that the church used it as a symbol of triumph rather than persecution. The first church to display the crucifixion was St. Sabina in Rome. Nate talked about the dark and the light and how the person on the cross is above the shadow and in the light

Robin pointed out that people don't normally go to the darkness all at once and that when they return to the light, they do it gradually. Venial sins generally lead to mortal sin if not kept in check with reconciliation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Sacrament of Penance**—Sunday, March 11th at 2pm. There will not be a preceding prayer service.
- **Knights of Columbus Recruiting Weekend**—March 17/18
- **Holy Week Schedule**—
 - Chrism Mass—Tuesday, March 27 at 6:30 pm in Springfield. We will take a bus.
 - Holy Thursday—Mass at 7pm followed by adoration until 10 pm.
 - Good Friday Service—at 3pm with Stations of the Cross at 6pm.
 - Easter Vigil—at 6:30pm. 25 candidates with 5 baptisms.
 - Easter Sunday—Masses at 8:15am and 10:15am and Spanish Mass at 12:15pm. No 5:15 Mass.
- **Confirmation**—Sunday, April 8th at the 10:15 Mass.
- **Usher/Greeter Training Session**—Monday, March 19th at 6:30 pm. This will be a meeting with Edwardsville police to train in awareness and develop an emergency plan.

REPORTS

FAITH FORMATION—Robin Black-Rubenstein

- **Koinonia—STBK4.** The retreat was successful. Good talks, good food, and the spirituality was phenomenal. There were 13 candidates and 20 team members. There was a discussion to make the Koinonia retreat mandatory for RCIA candidates and their sponsors. It will help build community and anchor our new members to the parish.
- **Opening the Word**—Robin reported several groups are participating in this Lenten program. She has received much positive feedback.
- **Confirmation Retreat**—will be this weekend, March 11th. A penance service will be included.
- **RCIA**—rapidly approaches the end to another successful term.
- **Grief Support**—this group now meets on the first Wednesday of the month. They have been ending their meetings with a light lunch. It gives them a chance to wrap up their discussions.
- **FIAT**—is going very well. There are generally 8-12 girls attending. Leadership has been stepping up to lead the classes and provide childcare.

FRATERNUS—Father Jeff for Jason Dreyer

Rob Savant has agreed to lead this group for another year. There are 5-7 young men who consistently attend. They are still building this group and have so much competition with other activities. They may have to re-evaluate the meeting night for next year.

STEWARDSHIP— Nate Vuagniaux

Nate apologized for missing our last meeting. He reported that a newsletter was included in the February 25th bulletin which included articles on the Last Supper Clubs, Koinonia, Opening the Word, Fiat, Run for God, and Experience God's Mercy in confession. They are planning another newsletter insert for Easter Sunday. They are working on the theme for 2018 which will blend with the Jubilee year. They are planning their kick-off for October 6/7—the weekend after the Jubilee Media Day.

REPORTS (continued)

DEACON DAN

There are nine couples planning baptisms. Scheduling has been going into July. Deacon said he explains the popularity of Mass baptisms to these parents. He said where some parishes may groan at baptisms during Mass, our parish “leans in” to them. We enjoy welcoming these new Catholics into the flock.

He also reported that there were around 250 people at the Deanery Breakfast. Our parish was well represented. Bishop recapped the findings and conclusions of the Synod.

BUSINESS

HOLY THURSDAY SOUP SUPPER—Father wanted to know from this council if we could sponsor this event. We haven’t had it for a couple of years, and it was well attended in the past. The consensus was yes, we will do this. Robin BR will check with Robin Hake about getting someone to provide the soup. We will take care of the set-up, hosting, and clean up. Father said parish staff could help, too. We discussed whether or not to ask for potluck items—desserts and salads—too. We suggested to keep it simple—soup and bread and a couple of trays of cookies from Sam’s.

STB2019 JUBILEE—Father said his potential speaker—Bishop Barron—is booked into 2020 and won’t be able to speak during our Jubilee celebration. We talked about Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and found through his website that he has January and February dates open. Robin will call and see if we can schedule him for February 10-13, 2019 or February 23-26, 2019. Clyde suggested we get a bi-lingual speaker. He suggested Jesse Romero from Catholic Answers. Robin will also check to see if Deacon Harold has a bi-lingual presentation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Marissa reported:

- Marcelo has been talking to Father Scott Vilander at Catharine Drexel in Springfield about setting up some activities with the Spanish community.
- Palm Sunday—the Spanish community will do the Stations of the Cross. They have been doing the Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent at 7pm.

Bruce mentioned that St. Vincent DePaul recently received a message on their line from someone speaking Spanish. SVDP reached out to Marcelo for a translation so they could get this person the help they needed. It’s good to know our communities are working together and taking care of each other.

Father ended our meeting with prayer. Jesus, always be our guide!

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 10th at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Georgann Lautner

ST. BONIFACE PRAY FOR US!!

