

## **Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes 11-29-16**

**Present:** Fr Bill, Naomi Corera, Moira Cullen, Bill & Mary Cavnar, Deacon Jim, Michelle Jahn, Larry Nienhaus, Marie Williams, Paul & Joann Thiefels

Minutes from the Sept meeting were approved.

**Evangelization Update** by Fr Bill: A Prayer for Peace event will be held on Sat, January 7 at 7 pm, the Feast of the Epiphany . Will consist of Taize style prayer (30-45 minutes) and vigil candles. Ecumenical in format. Hot cocoa will follow in the parish hall. Neighbors of the parish are being invited. St Thomas school children will make a banner advertising the event to be hung on the Kingsley St side of the church.

Also, a “Mass Explained” event will be held during Lent. Explanations of the mass before, during (where appropriate) and after will be included. Probably last 2 hours.

Another Alpha course will start in February or March. Will be held off-site at a microbrewery in AA. Similar to Theology on Tap events.

The Neocatechumenal Way (a charism within the Catholic church that promotes Christian formation) will be conducting a catechesis series starting in January. The N Way promotes community.

Moira Cullen suggested a Eucharistic Procession event with local parishes. Possibly on the Feast of Corpus Christi in June. Many were interested. Fr Bill will follow up and Moira will remind him if needed 😊.

Deacon Jim suggests the parish rekindle the “One Good Step” small groups that studied the Creed. He will work on a concrete plan and present it at our next meeting.

**St Thomas School update** by Michelle Jahn: An all school Advent Service was held last week. Catechesis of the Good Shepard program is being used for young children in the school. It’s a very hands on and age appropriate program. Michelle is planning a school staff book study. Looking for ideas of books about the faith that are very practical in nature. The School Advisory committee meets every month. They are tackling specific issues by breaking into small working groups. The school wide Virtues program continues; November’s topic was responsibility and December’s is self-control. An award is given to a child from each grade monthly at a school mass. In general, things are going well in the school; some problems from last year have been resolved. Current enrollment is 180, including the preschool. Preschool enrollment is very good. It’s a challenge for some reason to keep those families in the school. The school choir will sing once a month at Sunday mass with the adult choir. The NET team led a retreat for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The search for a permanent principal will start in January.

**Witness to Hope campaign update** by Larry N: All is going well, the active phase ended Nov 9. Our goal is to raise \$3 million; currently we've raised \$2 million. Less than 200 families have committed so far. \$1 million has been raised by lead donors consisting of 28 families. Fr Bill is confident we will reach our goal. It was suggested that prayers for the "Witness to Hope" campaign be included each week in the Prayers of the Faithful.

**Vocations committee:** Fr John Linden, Director of Vocations for the diocese, has asked that each parish in the diocese form a vocations team. It was suggested that the parish invite parents of current altar servers to be on this committee. Moira observed that parishes with Eucharistic Adoration have higher numbers of vocations. Marie suggested that we take advantage of parishioners who are now in priestly life or religious life to perhaps speak to parishioners. Mary mentioned a Catholic radio program "Vocation Boom."

**Parish library update** by Deacon Jim: the library committee consists of parishioners with a library science background and is headed by Carol Carrara. Deacon Jim handed out a sheet of information on the library taken from the parish website.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, January 24.** We will not meet in December.