

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
8-23-16

Present: Rod Gauvin, Frank Lum, Larry Nienhaus, Deacon Jim,  
Rob Hohler, Beth Spizarny, Bill & Mary Cavnar, Fr Todd, Fr Bill, Naomi Corera, Paul &  
Joann Thiefels, Marie Williams, Moira Cullen  
Absent: Cathy Dowling, Paul J

Minutes accepted from May meeting. The recent death of Larry Voight, CEO of Catholic Social Services was announced.

Term length on council for current members was discussed. Moira, Cathy and Naomi will continue for one more year; the remainder of members will continue for two more years.

Parish news email: With the recent death of parishioner Barbara Conlon occurring on a Sunday morning and her funeral several days later, some parishioners did not hear of her death until after the funeral. We have discussed having some type of email that parishioners would opt into for news such as this. Bill Cavnar said he'll look into big email group options and recommend one.

School update: Michelle Jahn, the new principal, could not be with us tonight as she is ill. There will be listening sessions with current parents, a look into the curriculum and many other issues. We lost 30 students last year due to several factors: job transfers, 5<sup>th</sup> grade issues and other things. Also, there were several tragedies among the school families. Fr Bill & Fr Todd remain deeply committed and connected with the school. Fr Bill will emphasize to school parents that he is open for discussion of their concerns. There is a need for more support for the school. Possible financial ideas and including homeschool associations are being looked into.

Called By Name: The Diocesan Assembly is being held Oct 2. Beth is waiting for a list of registrants so she can invite others to attend. It will be announced at the Parish Assembly on Sept 6. There is a focus on bringing back lapsed Catholics.

Parish Assembly: topics include hospitality, Alpha course & follow up, introduce the new high school director and the upcoming Diocesan Capital Campaign.

Commissioning of Parish & Finance Councils, Sept 25 at the 11am mass.

Update from Beth on Evangelization: a monthly E-news will start going out to 1200 addresses. Will contain lots of info. A Great resource for parishioners is Formed.org It is like a Catholic Netflix; includes a video prep for Sunday mass. The fall Alpha course will change to Thursday evenings. A new event called "The Mass Explained" will be promoted at the Christmas masses.

Update from Rob Hohler: The annual report just came out. Income is up; collections increase every year. We have a surplus of \$190,000. There was a tuition increase after two years of no change. The cemetery is doing well; we did not draw on the endowment at all. Generally, we are financially healthy. Looking forward to receiving more money for the parish from the Capital Campaign. About 300-350 families give regularly online.

Update from Larry Nienhaus: Working on the Capital Campaign and the school. Need to differentiate St Thomas School from others, stabilize the enrollment situation this year and plan for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. We discussed the symbolic importance of placing one's donation in the collection basket. There is now an option on the envelope that says: I give online.

Naomi: Expressed concern over the recent article in the bulletin suggesting that seniors who need a ride to mass can call the "Golden Ride" taxi. Can't we do better than that? Marie, as well as others, agreed. Naomi agreed to coordinate those who need a ride with those who can give a ride. Those in need can call the office.

Parish Mission Outreach: Bill gave out 2 handouts, a CRS document on how U.S. parishes can 'twin' with third world parishes and a second on our own parish outreach committee. Discussion will take place next month.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 27, 2016