

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes — August 19, 2019**

**Present:** Fr. Yamid Blanco, Gene Blome, Anthony Noll, Darlene Biedrzycki, Robert MacDonald, Grace Szezerba, Nolan Tremelling, Jeffrey Volk, Joan Walter, David Holland, Diane Ingalsbe, Kim Leslie, Kristina Knesting, Marissa Johnson

**Guests:** (none)

**Members not in attendance:** (none)

**Opening Prayer** was lead by Chairperson, Tony Noll

June 17 Pastoral Council Minutes were approved.

Tony also passed around a sheet of paper for council members to verify that all their information was correct (Phone number, email address and Committee Liaison assignments).

**Administrative Report:**

**Father Yamid:**

- **Capital Campaign**

- Father is expecting an email containing more information soon.
- The general idea is to give the parish 6 months of training for the Campaign. The Parish will decide when the training will be and when to start the Campaign.
- The Capital Campaign will be launched for \$150 million (the number has decreased from \$200 million)
- 60% of the Campaign will come back to the parish
- 40% will go to support various entities led by the Archdioceses (i.e. urban ministry, Catholic charities, St. Francis Seminaries, Deacon Schools, lay ministry, etc.)
- There is a goal for each parish, but no penalties if the parish does not reach the goal.
  - Funds need to be used for parish specified projects.

- **Siena Catholic Schools System**

- Emails received highlighting their various accomplishments:
  - Expanding the campus ministry program
  - Pilot programming completed at St. Lucy's school
- Father commented on priests noticing a drop in volunteers at their parishes with the new perception that Siena is in charge of things, as opposed to the pastor.

- The July 16 **Combined Parish Council Retreat** was a roaring success
  - Father's goal is to start having liaison meetings with for Pastoral Council and then eventually move to one Council for both Parishes
- **Safety and Security Planning Guidelines**
  - Archbishop Listecky is not in favor of locking doors before or during mass because it's not seen as very welcoming.
- **175th Anniversary Celebrations**
  - Some parishes are invited to celebrate in 7 days of service
  - From Sept 22-29, 6-9 PM at St. Edward and Sacred Heart (for Racine)
  - ArchMil is asking for those who are involved from St. Paul to be given a special blessing during mass
  - Tony believes he's received an email on the subject and will be passing it on to the rest of the Council

### **Old Business:**

#### **Safety and Security Committee reporting structure**

- The Archdiocese has no specific guideline on the matter, but the committee should be reporting back through the Parish Council
- Disorderly Conduct Policy
  - Previous Council had approved the policy, provided certain changes were made
  - The changes were made and it has been decided that the current Council will need to re-approve the policy via an email with a deadline
  - Once approved, the Safety and Security Committee wants to put a message in the bulletin, start training ushers, and create a sign up to see which parishioners are interested in being trained in the new policy. Safety and Security will be creating a document spelling out what this training will actually entail.
    - Some general comments were made on the Ushers not having a clear leader/Head Usher. There was some discussion about possibly trying to unify the Ushers in the near future and possibly add a more formal training structure.

#### **Archdiocese Parish Leader Update / Stewardship**

- Tony wanted to verify that all Council members were receiving the Update emails. Some members have not received them. Tony will look into that.

#### **Training Videos**

- Tony verified that all Council members have received his email with the links to the training videos and are intending to watch them (if they have not already).

#### **Rack Cards (Gene Blome)**

- Gene has been working on some personalized rack cards for St. Paul the Apostle. These have St. Paul's address and contact information (phone and website), as well as

our mass times on the front. On the back there are the names, addresses and contact information of all the other Catholic parishes in the Racine area.

- These rack cards are free to print and will be placed in places like hotels. They are especially relevant with Foxconn coming in. St. Sebastian's version of the rack card was also used at the Evangelization booth at the county fair.
- Deacon Keith has been in charge of the artwork on the front will be starting work on a version for St. Louis
- The council is in favor of the rack cards and has suggested adding information for [masstimes.org](http://masstimes.org) and/or the official Archdiocese of Milwaukee website to the back

### **Spanish / English bulletin insert e.g. music**

- Ideas discussed and largely scrapped: put the lyrics in the bulletin the week prior, pew insert, bulletin insert that would be passed out own its own before mass.
- Darlene suggested Father just give an overview of the song prior to singing it.

### **Siena schools update (Robert MacDonald)**

- Robert passed out the Strategic Planning Update packet from Siena Schools themselves. The Council looked over the packet while Robert explained that Siena wanted to have a meeting for the parishioners after mass in Fr. Cox hall. Robert is instead more in favor of her speaking at church to a captive audience, thanking them for their monetary support and to also have a student say speak about their experience at Siena. Father has already agreed to shorten his homily for this.
- The speakers will be attending both the Saturday and Sunday masses and it has been suggested they also hold a Q&A afterwards in Fr. Cox hall
- Robert wants someone from Administration to speak and will be coordinating the who, Father will work out the when.
- Some other facts that were brought to light:
  - We have zero parishioners who go to a Siena school
  - You don't have to actually be a member of the parish to go to the parish school, and this has not been communicated well.

### **New Member Registration; what's included? How is stewardship discussed?**

#### **what's included?**

- Tony passed around a folder filled with pamphlets and handouts that are given to new members for the council to peruse. There used to be a more formal process but now people just pick up a packet, fill out the form and they're in. They do have the option of requesting an interview, but the Council has commented on the whole process not seeming very welcoming. St. Paul used to have a welcoming committee and we certainly are feeling their absence.
- We discussed parishioner registration weekend, making the process more formal, and that a possible long term goal for the technology committee is to make a discussion

group for people to join. It was suggested we have a six month followup phone call to new members that join.

- It was mentioned that John Elgas has previously suggested that someone from the parish should call every parishioner at least once a year. Being that we have in the vicinity of 1500 families, we have yet to have any volunteers to surmount this task.

#### **How is stewardship discussed?**

- Stewardship is one of the 4 required commissions from the Archdiocese. We did not have a Stewardship Commission last year and still do not yet have one.
- Father has suggested we have a pulpit announcement to talk about Stewardship. Tony would prefer someone from Pastoral Council to make the announcement, but no one has volunteered. Gary Meyer was the previous chairperson and he will be asked if he is interested in doing the pulpit announcement. Other members of the council have elected Robert MacDonald to do the speech if Gary declines.
- It has been mentioned that conversations on stewardship often tend to lead straight towards money and we want to make sure that the real focus is on time, talents, and treasure.

#### **Closing notes**

- Homework for Council members assigned by Tony
  - Look at condensing the St. Paul mission statement
  - Parish 3-5 year plan ideas
  - Father wants the parish to be welcoming, so Tony wants us to consider “What does welcoming mean to you?”
    - Examples: making it easier for people with wheelchairs/walkers to sit with their family, better catering to the hearing disabled.
- Technology Committee
  - 2 proposals completed and a third coming in
    - Upgrading the sound system and microphones
    - AV upgrade
  - Mike has a phone call scheduled tomorrow (8/20/19) about the Flock Note App
    - The idea of the app is to have better communications between Father and groups and general parishioners. Father would be able to send out his own messages, and commissions/groups would also be able to create their own messages.
    - Father also mentioned the Weekender app, which would be used to reach out to parishioners every weekend and let them know what’s going on.

#### **Committee Minutes / Updates**

Most committees have not yet met so there were few updates.

- **Safety and Security (Kim Leslie)**

- Safety concerning the Liturgy of the Word kids, discussed the possibility of moving the kids into a classroom, as opposed to out in the open. This move will be discussed with Randy and/or Amy, and I believe Robert said he will be starting that discussion.
- The committee is concerned about someone being able to ram their car through our doors due to lack of barriers. Kim has asked the council if anyone has connections for us to look into installing the barriers. The committee has so far been looking into barriers that are more eye pleasing (e.g. statues or fountains) as opposed to the cheaper, simple pole barriers. The closest company the Committee has found is in Kenosha. Gene Blome has stated that Knights of Columbus has connections for this sort of thing and if the Committee could come up with slightly more firm ideas to bring to them, they could probably take it from there.

Council meeting was adjourned with the prayer led by Father Yamid.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marissa Johnson