

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes — December 16, 2019**

**Present:** Darlene Biedrycki, David Holland, Diane Ingalsbe, Fr. Yamid Blanco, Grace Szczerba, Jeff Volk, Joan Walter, Kim Leslie, Kristina Knesting, Marissa Johnson, Tony Noll

**Guests:** (none)

**Members not in attendance:** David Ferraro, Nolan Tremelling, Robert MacDonald

**Opening Prayer** was lead by Chairperson, Tony Noll. Various members of the Council added their own special intentions to the prayer

Minutes were approved via email and have already been published.

### **Reports & Presentations**

#### **Fr. Yamid's Report**

- Christmas Mass preparations are underway. St. Paul's will have two masses on Christmas Eve (4PM and 10PM) and one on Christmas day (10AM)
- The Catechumens completed their first rite of Ascending. Four will be receiving their sacraments at the Easter Vigil Mass
- There was an usher meeting on Dec. 4th. We will be ordering new usher coats and nametags soon. (Mike is handling the details with the orders)
- Wants to thank the Homebound team for organizing the Communion service and Anointing of the Sick at Primrose. There were over 20 residents in attendance.
  - Father wants to do this 3-4 times a year
- Father will be leaving for Colombia to visit his family after Christmas, will return on January 10th
- Dec. 20th: There will be a Reconciliation Service at Sacred Heart for the whole Racine area from 8AM-8PM. Father will be hearing confessions from 10AM-Noon and 4-6PM
- Candles
  - Pleased to announce we now have real candles on the Altar. Planning on changing the Votive candles to real ones as well, should be in just before Christmas
  - The stand for the Easter Candle is too tall and the candle itself is too short. Father hopes to shorten the stand so we can have a longer candle
- Father is very pleased with our Divine Mercy picture and would like to also have one picture of Our Lady so that we have two pictures there
- A St. Louis parishioner donated funds for Fr. Yamid to buy new vestments
  - Father bought 2; a green one and a pink one

- Wanted St. Paul's to have a small crucifix on the altar like St. Louis, bought a double sided one.
- Joan Arnone suggested moving the advent wreath to the middle to be more visible. Father is happy with how it looks. No parishioner complaints yet. Council members either said it looked good, or did not even notice that it had moved.

## **Old Business**

### **Staff Appreciation Lunch / Christmas Party 12/17 Update**

- The office will be closed at noon Tuesday
- St. Louis and St. Paul's staff invited
- Most of the decorations were donated, making the event very cost effective
- Organized in partnership with Saint Paul and Saint Louis with Father's approval

## **New Business**

### **Stewardship Commission**

- 6 members, 2 more people considering

### **Legacy Program**

- As Stewardship Commission gets their feet on the ground we are expecting them to be involved with the Legacy program
- Gary stepped down from Stewardship but has been continuing with the Legacy Program—will ask if he wants to re-join Stewardship now that there are more members.

### **Nativity Scene in Monument Square**

- A parishioner wanted to know if St. Paul's participated financially or otherwise helped with the decorating
- Knights of Columbus are exclusively responsible for the set up/take down of the scene
- We were unsure what sort of help we could even offer and it was brought up that we don't even have anyone to put up our own outdoor Nativity scenes.
  - Made note to ask parishioners or the high schoolers for volunteers to put up the scene next year
  - Also considering looking into selling the figures as they have not been put out for several years
  - Mentioned we may be missing the backdrop for the scene
    - Grace will check with her St. Cat's teachers about the feasibility of having some of the students build us a new backdrop

### **In Regards to the Safety and Security Minutes**

- The Commission wanted to publish their new policies on either the St Paul's website or Facebook page.

- After various discussions the Pastoral Council decided to recommend the policies **not** be published on the website
- They will instead be announced in the bulletin with parishioners who want to read the entire policy able to request a PDF of the procedure via email. A few hard copies will be available on the tables in the Narthex.

### **Tentative Hospitality Schedule**

- Nothing is scheduled for December
- Respect for Life = Jan. 12
- Father's Generation meeting 40-60 yr old = Jan. 19
- Prayer and Worship = Feb. 9
- Pastoral Council's tentative date to sponsor is March 8th, possibly in conjunction with the upcoming election
- Easter = April 5
- Psalm Sunday = April 12
- Father's Generation meeting 60+ yr old = April 19
- Mothers day Rose Sale = May 10
- Nothing Scheduled for June

### **Pastoral Plan — First Steps (ongoing)**

#### **Welcoming**

#### **Baptisms**

- Family's reserved seating is on the right hand side of the church, while the actual Baptism takes place on the left hand side = not very good seats for the family, not very welcoming.
- Wants to find out who puts out the "reserved" signs and look into moving them to the other side of church.
  - Ushers don't put out the signs or know who does. Will ask the Baptism group/committee

#### **Communion**

- Idea of having "auction paddles" for people who can't get up for Communion
  - People seem to be fine with just asking an usher to bring a Eucharistic Minister over
  - "Let's not solve a problem we don't have."
- We have gluten free hosts. They are stored in the freezer. The ushers are not aware of anyone who wants/needs them. Should consider making it known that we have the hosts so people can request them if need be.
  - Perhaps bulletin announcement?
  - If we are to get requests for gluten free hosts, Eucharistic Ministers and Sacristans may need additional training to ensure there is no cross-contamination between the types of hosts.

## **Liaison Reports**

### **Building and Grounds (Kim Leslie)**

- B+G reports to Finance Council: does a Pastoral Council liaison have to be on the Committee? Should a Finance Council liaison be on the Committee?
  - Finance Council does not have liaisons.
  - Technology and Safety and Security Committees also report to Finance Council and they also need Pastoral Council liaisons.
- The entire Committee is composed of Al, Dave and Kim (PC liaison): Can they switch to meeting quarterly?
  - Yes.

### **Technology Committee (Tony Noll)**

- The upgrades we were expecting will be installed after Christmas
- Having difficulty with the Facebook page.
  - We don't know who the admin is, so we can't delete posts/designate a new admin or really do anything at all. Want to delete the page and make a new one so we can start utilizing the platform. Having difficulties deleting the page without knowing who the admin is.

## **Ushers**

- Father wants to mention that the Ushers are doing a fantastic job.
- They are a little short handed on Saturday masses.
- Dean will be compiling a list of responsibilities in regards to the new policies.
- Marge Orth wants to speak after mass to highlight some key points in the new policies. Considering a date in January.

## **Vocations (Darlene Biedrycki)**

- They have sent cards to Seminarians.
- Wondering if they need to meet as often as they do / are considering maybe teaming up with Evangelization committee.
- Father wants them to promote the seminary dinner

## **Finance Council (David Holland)**

- Facility study update
  - Policy bid process, needing 3 bids, will update policy to make that more clear, reviewing the older policy
  - House transferred, we already have the check.

## **Human Concerns (Jeff Volk)**

- Pancake breakfast- committee wondering if having one later the 8 AM would be better, maybe around 10:00–1:00?
- Jan 12, 10:00 AM mass = Baptism celebration
  - All families baptised this year invited

- Diane, the chair, normally stocks the giving tree envelopes, but will not be around during Christmas so will need someone else to watch/restock the envelopes
- Rice bowls will be happening the weekend before Ash Weds.
- The committee bought a one (1) year license for the movie *Unplanned*. It will be shown on **Saturday, January 25 at 1:30 PM**. There are plans to show the movie again in May and October.

**Adult Formation and Evangelization (Marissa Johnson)**

- Christmas party went really well, probably had over 80 people in attendance (40ish kids)
- Will be distributing Matthew Kelly's *Rediscover the Saints* books after Christmas Masses.
- Father mentioned that Colleen and Amy have 10 kids interested in mission trips. Are considering arranging a second collection to support the kids' mission trips. Have 1-2 kids talk to ask for support.
  - Sienna School students will be speaking on the Jan. 25th-26th masses.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marissa Johnson