

St. Paul the Apostle Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes — January 20th, 2020

Present: Darlene Biedrycki, David Ferraro, David Holland, Fr. Yamid Blanco, Jeff Volk, Joan Walter, Kristina Knesting, Marissa Johnson, Tony Noll

Guests: Danielle Branelly, Dawn Vlach

Members not in attendance: Diane Ingalsbe, Grace Szczerba, Kim Leslie, Nolan Tremelling, Robert MacDonald

Opening Prayer was led 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.

Guests: Dawn and Danielle

Harmony Club

- What it is: A social program with locations at numerous churches that is volunteer based. (at least one staff person is always on site)
 - Clients (guests): Designed for people with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, etc.
 - Functions as both a relief service to the guests' primary caretaker and a social event for the guest.
- Volunteers can be a cook, coordinator, "friend," musician, etc.
- The most important role is the volunteer "friend"
 - You are assigned to 1-2 "guests" and are tasked with being their friend for the day, doing things like; doing a craft with them, help them get their snack, buddy system to the bathroom, make sure they don't sit alone at lunch, etc.
 - "Friends" don't have to do anything like cleaning up accidents; the staff handles those things
 - The only way to tell the guests apart from the "friends" is their name tags. The guests' name tags have first and last names whereas the "friends" are first name only
 - Some of the guests think they're volunteers
- They have about 110 total volunteers, which are mostly from churches, some Catholic churches. The idea is to have sites with volunteers from the site, but some volunteers go from site to site.
- Some sites meet once a month, others meet more. There is basically a meeting everyday (at different sites)
- Prepaid service, not a drop in center,

- if client is unable to make day (due to a hospital visit, etc) they can reschedule for a later day or have money refunded
- They are asking for permission to advertise the Harmony Club at St. Paul's, both to ask for volunteers and get word to people who might benefit from the club.
 - May also ask for donations (things like; paper, envelopes, coffee, sugar)
- Our previous concerns involving possible insurance issues if volunteers are considered to be representing St. Pauls were addressed through numerous emails detailing the Harmony Club's insurance information. They are adequately insured and so this is not an issue.
- Pastoral Council unanimously approved a pulpit and bulletin announcement and also a 2nd collection for the day they talk. We decided to shoot for a date in February. The Harmony Club will be presented to the Human Concerns and Stewardship Commissions (which meets in two weeks) to see if they want to be involved.

Reports & Presentations

Fr. Yamid's Report

- Wanted to extend a huge thank you to everyone who was involved in the Christmas masses; the decorators, ushers, eucharistic ministers, everyone. Wanted to mention Ronnie did an amazing job with the music
 - Heard some people say that they come to St. Paul's just for the music.
 - Someone else from out of town wanted everyone to know they loved the Children's mass
- The mic problems we were having 3 weeks before the Christmas masses were resolved by a parishioner named Ron who lent Father a mic for the Christmas masses. He also fixed the cord on the other mic basically at cost. Thank you Ron.
- Still working on the new AV system
 - David F. has donated funds for a new mic
- We have new name tags for the ushers
- Father is selecting the jackets this week; they will be grey.
 - David F. mention that some of the ushers were wondering if they could pay for their own jacket
 - Father is for this and wants to know how many of the ushers want to do this.
- Father has become aware that there seems to be a bit of misinformation going around regarding what he is and is not supporting within the parish. Father wants to make an announcement to encourage everyone to take their concerns to him via email so he can address them directly and squash misinformation as it arises.
 - Wanted to mention that he supports programs by allowing them to run; he does not have to be directly involved in the implementation of something to

support it. If a program does not have Father's support, it will not be allowed to run.

- Father will be starting a Doctorate program in June. He is also currently learning Italian.

Complete / Approved

Stewardship Commission

- First meeting was a roaring success. There were 7-8 members, some of which were; Danielle Branelly, Helen Suda, Linda Barker and Barb Nees.

Old Business

Wheelchair Placards

- This is being passed on to the Safety and Security Committee
- They will locate Designated Wheelchair Locations and add signage
 - We may not have designated locations, in which case the committee will determine where they should be and create them.

Outdoor Nativity Scene

- An email was sent to Grace for her to bring to her school's shop teacher to inquire about students creating a backdrop. We also seem to have material that can be used.
- Unfortunately, Grace was sick and unable to attend the meeting so we do not yet have an update.

Gluten Free Hosts

- The hosts are kept in a pyx in the tabernacle. Father was informed of the idea brought up during All Committee night; to make an announcement before distributing Communion that his station would have the Gluten Free hosts and to come to him if you need them.

AED

- The AED has been moved into the Narthex. There is a very visible sign.

Due to time constraints we decided to table the agenda item of "Children Offerings."

New Business

FlockNote Update

- Darlene has heard that everyone loves Father's Weekender, but some feel the messages are a little too long
 - Tony suggested Father perhaps shorten the Weekender and created a separate FlockNote group called something like "Gospel Group" where Father can send out more in depth messages regarding the Gospel for those who sign up

- Father likes the Weekenders just the way they are and is fine if people only read the parts they feel like.
- Addressed the topic of adding the committees and other additional groups to FlockNote
- After discussion on how the app works and the logistics of adding everyone, Father wants to know which committees want to be on the app and who wants to be the Admin(s) for the groups. (A single group can have multiple Admins)
 - Tony will be sending out an email inquiring about this information.

Stewardship (Gary Meier Report)

- Council discussed the possibility of inviting Gary Meier to present his stance on what went right and wrong with the last Stewardship Committee.
- Ultimately decided to let the new Stewardship get their feet on the ground by working with our contact at the Arch and see where they go from there.

Liaison Reports

Church Environment Committee - Joan Walter

- Expressed needing a clear procedure in regards to donation of flowers to the church after an event (i.e. Funeral, Wedding) as after things are donated no one seems to know who should be responsible for taking care of / removing dead flowers
- Wants to stress communications between everyone, should be functioning as one body (church) and not as individual entities.
- While on the subject of decorations, Father mentioned that he wants bigger Christmas trees in the church as well as a large nativity scene near the front of the altar(during Christmas). Father also would like the committee to solicit his input prior to decorating for Christmas and Easter.
- The Divine Mercy painting is getting reframed- Darlene and several others noticed its absence and were curious about what had happened to it.

Adult Formation and Evangelization (Marissa Johnson)

- An update on the Rosary Making Ministry; We were formed in January of 2019. We meet 8 months out of the year and we were hoping to make about 800 Rosaries in that time.
- Found that members actually continued to make rosaries while we were on summer break.
- We have actually distributed about 1800 rosaries so far, and the group is still continuing to be an extremely productive ministry.

Finance Council (David Holland)

- It's budget season, so they're working on that.
- Going over the purchasing policy
- Defining the need for the Building and Grounds Commission

- Very excited about the liftoff of the Stewardship Committee

Prayer and Worship (Kristina Knesting)

- Liturgical Ministries Morning of Reflection mini retreat
 - Kim will be giving the keynote, then there will be break out sessions
 - It's happening next month, Feb. 15th
 - There has already been one push from Ronnie on FlockNote.
- Hosting Hospitality on Feb 9th. Soliciting the Parish Council for volunteers to help serve. Volunteers will need to be in the kitchen after Communion. Volunteers please RSVP.

Human Concerns (Jeff Volk)

- Lenten Rice Bowls
 - 75% of funds will go to Catholic Relief Services
 - 25% will go to St. Vincent de Paul
- Showing the movie *Unplanned* this weekend at 1:30 on Saturday.
 - Have purchased the license for the whole year and will be showing the movie again in May and October.

Stewardship (David Ferraro)

- They just had their first meeting, it went incredibly well. David feels it's a very good group and the people get along well together.
- They are going to connect with Archdiocese.
- Have not yet selected their officers, will probably wait another meeting or two so everyone can get a feel for how things work.

Technology (Tony Noll)

- They attended a seminar at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish called "Gigs, Geeks, and God." This seminar has been going on for 10 years and some parishes have been attending it that long, which makes our parish about 10 years behind (on the technology front).
- Most parishes have an IT person or personnel
- Showed the Council a picture of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish sanctuary, which has chairs instead of pews and no kneelers.
 - inquired about replacing a few rows of St. Paul's pews with chairs to make them more handicap accessible.
 - Father (and several Council members) do not like the appearance of the chairs
 - Did mention that St. Paul's is handicap accessible as we do not have any stairs.

Father: Communion

- Father wondered if we really need 6 stations for Communion for regular weekend masses.
- Noticed that a lot of people who go to the two stations in the back leave immediately after receiving Communion (as they are already halfway to the door?)
- Father wonders if we lower it to 4 stations and force everyone to come to the front of the church if more people will stay for the blessing.
- Tony suggested Father try this and see how it goes.
 - May also help with the problem of being short Eucharistic Ministers on Saturday masses

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Marissa Johnson