

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

Present: Fr. Yamid Blanco, Jeffrey Volk, Kristina Knesting, Tony Noll, Joan Walter, David Holland, Robert MacDonald, Kim Leslie, Grace Szerzeba, Diane Ingalsbe, Darlene Biedrzycki, Marissa Johnson

Guests: Deacon Dale Nees

Members not in attendance: Gene Blome, Nolan Tremelling

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

The August 19 Pastoral Minutes were approved and will be forwarded to Sue and Jenny to be published.

Reports and Presentations:

Deacon Dale Nees:

- Prayer and Worship Commission Presentation
 - Liturgy is the official prayer of the church
 - Good liturgy is any liturgy in which the people use their gifts in order to share them amongst the people of God.
 - Primary role of the Commission = setting a vision
 - The commission has 9 members, the ushers are linked to the commission but often have their own meetings
 - **2019-2020 Goals**
 - Collaborate with St. Louis
 - Liturgical training for all ministries
 - Provide short catechesis for all ministers by Feb 2020
 - Have a parish liturgical ministry day by Mar 2020
 - Full inclusion of youth/children in community's liturgy
 - Work or recruitment, religious education staff
 - Mentoring young Catholics
 - Pair adult members with youth
 - Schedule 2 lectors regularly, have one of them be a youth
 - Renewing returning Catholics

Father Yamid's Administrative Report:

- 2019 Fall mass count will be held on the weekend of Oct 5-6
- Fall priest day is tomorrow (9-17)
 - Father will be attending. Their focus will be on planning for the future (2020)

- 7 Days of Service: 9/22 - 9/29
- St. Francis Seminary Annual Seminary Dinner will be on Oct 4th
 - Costs: \$150 per person or \$1,500 for a whole table
- Brenda White, president of Siena School will be addressing the parish on the weekend of Oct 26-27th and will be speaking at both Saturday and Sunday masses.
- Father is adding an extra Youth Mass
 - Youth masses will now be held on both the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month. Father has spoken to all of the middle and high school students and informed them that mass attendance is a mandatory part of their formation classes.
- Father is changing his day off to Mondays, starting in October
 - Will still attend Finance and Pastoral council meetings, but will only attend All Committee meetings when there are extraneous events, such as Easter or Lent.
 - On the weeks he attends a Pastoral or Finance meeting, he will celebrate the Mass on Friday but not be in the office for the rest of the morning. Noting that the parish office closes at noon on Fridays.
- St. Louis Parish will celebrate its 175th Anniversary of its founding. Archbishop ListECKI will be the main celebrant at the 9 AM Mass at St. Louis parish on August 30, 2020

Completed / Approved

- **Rack Cards** - being printed
- **Spanish / English bulletin insert**
- **Disorderly Person policy** (update from Kim)
 - Al is working with Mike Chuchara to fill in the blanks
 - The committee next meets on the 23rd
 - Question was raised if there is a designated PR person in the policy, Kim will check.

Old Business

- Robert MacDonald will be doing the **Stewardship Appeal** speech. He read his speech to the Council who were in approval of the heartfelt message he delivered
- The **Siena schools update** and **St Louis 175th anniversary** were covered in Fr. Yamid's report

New Business

Financial Report (Robert MacDonald)

- Siena School assessment was \$86,000. Parish only collected \$16,000. Siena wants to raise our assessment to \$106,000
- Our Budgeted loss is \$54,000. Robert does not believe we can cut our committees' budgets
- Wants to increase a feeling of family when you walk into the church. If the parish is more welcoming and we are able to tie things together, people will come to mass more which will naturally lead to more revenue
- Recent expenses we've had
 - Upgraded to Windows 10, new copier, new chiller for the AC

- The Windows upgrade will lead to less maintenance and the capacity for cheaper copies will eventually pay for itself
- Fix operational budget deficit by increasing stewardship
- Ideally we'll have a "rainy day" fund for capital expenses
 - Roof, AC, heat, etc
- Wants Finance Council to work with Pastoral Council to brainstorm ways to raise funds
 - Examples 4th Fish Fry, Picnic, Youth bike ride
- Question was raised what committees should do with miscellaneous expenses
 - Answer; they would write a request and then Rob and Mike would decide to approve the expense and where the money would come from

There are 29 men signed up for That Man Is You

- Father wants these men to take up roles as Ushers and Greeters

Revise / simplify St Paul the Apostle Mission Statement

- There were no objections to Father's slight revision
 - "The people of St. Paul the Apostle are called by Jesus Christ to be a people of faith and to reflect His Light in all we do, to put Christ before us, Christ beside us and Christ within us and to share that love of Christ with others."
- The council reviewed the list of potential "elevator speech" versions of the mission statement. Version #4 was approved unanimously.
 - "We are called to be a people of faith, to reflect Christ's Light in all we do and to share His love with everyone."

Parish Council Minutes and Agenda

- Are on St. Paul's website. You can find them by going to stpaulracine.org, mousing over "Councils/Commissions," clicking on "Pastoral Council," scroll down to the click "here" for Pastoral Council Agendas and click "here" for Pastoral Council Minutes
- Minutes and Agendas are also published in the binder on the table in the library
 - Not many parishioners know that the minutes are public. We talked about putting something in the bulletin to spread the word

Father will be gone next March for his Italy pilgrimage on the 16-26. The pastoral council meeting that month will be moved to Thursday, March 12th.

- Father is also considering canceling the April Pastoral Council meeting due to being out of town.
- Seeing as April is an election month the council has decided to hold off on making a decision for a month or two, when we are closer to the actual date.

Fundraising Policy

- It was determined that our current fundraising policy is in need of revision. Robert voiced that our new policy will need to work in concert with the Finance Committee, and so the task of rewriting the policy was assigned to the Finance Committee

Technology Committee Directives

- Among updating our AV system to get rid of dead zones, the FCC is seizing the frequency our wireless mics use. We need to switch frequencies before it becomes illegal to operate using our current frequency
- Father wants to be able to more effectively communicate with the Parish. The committee has reviewed several apps, and the one that stands above the rest is FlockNote
- FlockNote
 - Can send emails, texts and phone calls
 - Can have specific groups
 - Group can respond/comment on a message
 - Public and private messages
 - There are about 15 local churches already using the app (you can check on their website)
 - It does not require a login / password for the congregation
 - Text to join
 - Parishioners only need to fill out 3-5 fields
 - It has filtering capabilities and a search capacity
 - Statistics:
 - 90% of FlockNote messages get opened
 - 70% of email are opened
 - 5% of bulletins are read/opened
 - Cost to Parish
 - \$15-16 a month (for 1500 people)
 - Akin to having a Netflix account
 - All the information that is entered belongs to the parish, if we were to decide to no longer use the app, we could download all the information about our parishioners.
 - FlockNote is from a communications company, not an app development company
 - Amy is already experimenting with the app

Committee Updates

Safety and Security (Kim)

- Moving the Children's Liturgy kids
 - Classrooms are now in use during mass now that school has started
 - Also voiced that the Liturgy is supposed to be mass, not a class and you kind of lose that feeling if you move them into a classroom. Like having the statue of the Holy Family nearby.
 - Randy will now have a high school kid as a helper
 - Considered moving the kids to the library

Building and Grounds Commission (Kim)

- Wants to inquire about the process of selling some of our equipment. We have an extra shed and trailer we are not using and would like to get rid of two of our four snowblowers

- Parish Rummage sale?
 - Mike has previously tried to sell TVs and etc, he's the guy to talk to.

Closing Prayer was lead by Father Yamid.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marissa Johnson