

Catholic Community of Waukesha Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday, October 19, 2017

Members Present: Cathy Bailey, JoAnne Burgardt, Fr. Harry Buzbuzian, Jerry Campbell, Luanne Cocoran, Boni Danner, Dan Domach, Greg Garland, Flor Gonzalez, Ed Greil, Fr. Howard Haase, Jim Hinchman, Greg Johnson, John Kendellen, Joe Mazza, Rob Olejniczak, Dale Sinkula, Jennifer Wall, Ken Walter

Excused: Chris Brown, Marty Larson, Fr. Jose Nieto, Deacon Barry Saylor, Fr. Chuck Wrobel

The meeting was called to order at 7:01PM with our statement of how the meeting will be successful and was begun with prayer and reflection

Topics/Issues/Projects Discussed

- Council Liaison Best Practices
 - o Review communication committee summary
 - o St. William Stewardship Assessment
 - o Liaison updates
- Communication Protocol for Parish common meeting nights
- General Information
- Update from the Priests

Decisions Made

- Confirmed September meeting minutes (with slight corrections)
- Pastoral Council liaison reports will be part of each meeting

Follow-up Work / Person(s) Responsible

- All to share areas of communications challenges with Cathy (and communications committee)
- Liaisons should send commission reports to Council members & Council members should review prior to the next meeting
- Talk to Steve Banas about joining the November Pastoral Council meeting
- Ken and Boni to attend the deanery/APC meeting October 23
- Spirituality of Stewardship Conference November 3 or 4, Cathy to forward email from the Archdiocese
- Set up town hall / listening sessions

The meeting concluded at 8:38PM with a closing prayer

Next Pastoral Council Meeting: Thursday 16 Nov 2017, 7:00PM, Vercelli House

Discussion Details:

Council Liaison Best Practices

We started the agenda by discussing council liaison best practices. Cathy shared her thoughts about filling out the committee report for the communications committee. She shared that she, as part of the committee, attends the meetings and afterwards summarizes the topics discussed, decisions made, and follow-up actions. This provides an update from the meeting and provides a means to share key points or where help is needed with the Pastoral Council. Cathy shared that the communications committee is working on understanding where there are areas in need of improved communication so that they can help provide guidance and recommendations for improvement. She asked the Pastoral Council members to share areas of communications challenges that they experience or see. Cathy also clarified the Pastoral Council involvement in the logo contest. At the November communications meeting (November 13) they will select the logo contest finalists to bring to the November (November 16) Pastoral Council meeting for logo contest selection and approval.

The Archdiocese conducted the St. William stewardship assessment yesterday (Wednesday, October 18). Barb Vite guided the attendees through 7 areas of stewardship in the church where each area had a corresponding survey to complete. Barb will compile the results and go through with Fr. Howard. The consensus was that Barb was a solid moderator and very dynamic. She stressed that stewardship was about prayer, not just tithing. Luanne commented that she was disappointed by the attendance. Cathy thought there were about 25 people with some of these staff members. For comparison, the St. Mary stewardship assessment attendance was about 40-50 parishioners in July 2016. One comment on the assessment was how the atmosphere or environment of the Parish may impact the results. There is much more turmoil now than 6 months ago. One example of this is that the CF leader at a second grade reconciliation meeting was very apologetic of the change in venue and on the fact that things are different this year. We as Pastoral Council need to especially work on showing the positive nature of the change. During the assessment Barb was very good at sharing positive stories of what change can look like after each section (two examples include a Missouri parish who has a free health clinic and offers free school tuition because of the intense stewardship culture and a Detroit Parish who decided to be a stewardship Parish and had all parishioners sign a contract regarding prayer and financial support). Perhaps we could share these stories with the Catholic Community of Waukesha...

Next the commission liaisons shared status updates:

John has been in contact with the formation commission, but had no update today.

Jim is involved with the Stewardship and Evangelization commission. He updated that the stewardship campaign is in progress and parishioner witnesses on what the Parish / Church means to them for the next 3 weeks. There will be mailings and bulletin inserts coming up regarding the stewardship campaign. The campaign with

culminate to commitment weekend November 11 / 12 and victory weekend November 18 / 19.

Dan has reached out to the prayer and worship commission but has not gotten a response yet.

Greg, Rob, and Fr. Harry were at the last human concerns commission meeting and have started developing a relationship. The commission had good representation from all 4 Parishes although St. William does not have a Parish level human concerns committee. The commission is helping work with immigration concerns and has a parishioner who is a lawyer helping out. During lent they will be having a traveling stations of the cross which will visit 14 locations throughout Waukesha. The commission may need \$100-\$200 for this and are not sure on funding yet. The overall feeling was that everyone chipped in and participated very well.

There is a concern that all committees will become one. As Pastoral Council we need to help make sure that the individual Parish committee structures stay strong and active while also learning from each other. While some activities may be done together we don't want to lose the individual Parish events, for example St. John Neumann's Breakfast in Bethlehem or St. Mary's Trunk or Treat. Additionally, while formation takes place at St. Mary's we don't want to lose connections between the kids and their individual Parishes. Boni is trying to resurrect the formation committee at St. John Neumann to keep CF traditions and Parish specific formation activities. In general the idea is to stay connected at both the local level and collaborative sense.

We would like to keep these liaison updates as a standing agenda item. Liaisons should send reports out prior to the Pastoral Council meeting so that members can review beforehand. The Pastoral Council meeting should be a place for members to get highlights and ask questions.

Rob sat down with Steve Banas over a cup of coffee. The plan is for Steve to come to the next meeting as an introduction between him and the Pastoral Council members.

Communication Protocol for Parish common meeting nights

St. John Neumann and St. Joseph have a solid foundation of Pastoral Council 'liaison' relationships / leadership at their Parish common meeting nights. These 'liaisons' use a similar report out mechanism, like Boni's report out, highlighting the top 3 topics for each committee. St. Mary and St. William are still working on the format that works for them. The idea is that each individual Parish should find the format that works for them. There can be a synergy with a liaison communication structure with both the common meeting nights and commissions, especially because some commissions may not meet as often as the committees and it is important to keep the lines of communication open.

General Information

The St. John Neumann stewardship assessment is planned for October 24. Boni will help spread the word to help get good attendance.

The Spirituality of Stewardship Conference will take place Friday November 3 and be repeated Saturday November 4. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

The Archdiocese Pastoral Council (APC) meeting will take place October 23. This meeting consists of representatives from each Pastoral / Parish council from the Parishes throughout the Waukesha East Deanery, which the Catholic Community of Waukesha is part of, and gives feedback to the bishop. There was some discussion on whether we need a representative from each of our 4 Parishes or a simply a few members representing the Catholic Community of Waukesha collaboration. It was decided that we have one Pastoral Council and therefore should only need representatives for the collaboration rather than every Parish. Ken and Boni plan on attending the meeting. Noel Fortier will also be attending, as she is the chair-elect for the APC.

Update from the Priests

There is a citywide staff listing. This should help identify where staff is located and who is in charge of what functions. This staff listing needs to be widely shared / distributed.

There are a lot of rumors that are not true. Ask Fr. Howard about concerns.

The priest schedules for Mass rotations are changing. The idea of having a priest have a 'home' Parish did not work and they are going to start a larger rotation visiting all 4 Parishes more evenly.

The staffing update is that some staff has left. This has not been due to any firing; people have all left for personal reasons. Fr. Howard promised the financial councils that if staff left these vacancies would not be immediately filled just to fill a position. Rather the staffing needs would be re-evaluated prior to any job postings.

Technology upgrades and updates are continuing. OneNote is in place so that staff can more easily talk to one another.

There are almost 900 students registered for Christian Formation. This is one of the largest groups in many years. Cindy Bergland has resigned as director of Christian Formation and we are working to support this vacancy and fill the need for the position.

Communication continues to be a challenge. We need to work on better, more consistent and accurate communication. If there are questions direct them to Fr. Howard. This will hopefully help get rid of rumors.

With all the transitions in staffing that are occurring would it be useful to resurrect the personal committee? Fr. Howard said yes and that this committee is being formed. Especially with all these changes there was a recommendation to add a date stamp to the staff listings.

In an effort to improve communication with parishioners should we set-up town hall or listening sessions? Perhaps the corporate meetings would be a good forum for Q&A at the end. Regardless of using the corporate meetings or not, the Pastoral Council should set up some listening sessions in the relatively near future. Maybe these be after Mass or in conjunction with hospitality weekends? While Pastoral Council member attendance at hospitality weekends would be good, these are probably not quite the same as a town hall / listening session. It might be good to have both (host hospitality and have a town hall / listening session).

One comment that parishioners are struggling with is not knowing whom to ask for when calling the Parishes. Fr. Howard said that you should be able to call any Parish and they will give the correct number / contact. A parishioner should never be told 'I don't know' and if they are Fr. Howard wants to know.