

Catholic Community of Waukesha Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday, December 21, 2017

Members Present: Cathy Bailey, Chris Brown, JoAnne Burgardt, Fr. Harry Buzbuzian, Jerry Campbell, Luanne Cocoran, Boni Danner, Flor Gonzalez, Fr. Howard Haase, Marty Larson, John MacGregor, Fr. Jose Nieto, Rob Olejniczak, Dale Sinkula, Jennifer Wall, Ken Walter, Fr. Chuck Wrobel

Guest: Michelle Heeren

Excused: Dan Domach, Greg Garland, Ed Greil, Greg Johnson, John Kendellen, Joe Mazza, Deacon Barry Saylor

Absent: Jim Hinchman

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM with our statement of how the meeting will be successful and was begun with prayer and reflection

Topics/Issues/Projects Discussed

- What Success Looks Like
- Pastoral Council 'Meet and Greets' Feedback
- Planning for Pastoral Council Town Hall Listening Sessions
- Communications Committee Updates
- Closing Comments from the Priests

Decisions Made

- Took photos of Pastoral Council members
- Confirmed November meeting minutes

Follow-up Work / Person(s) Responsible

- Cathy to share logo feedback with designer and get a revised draft
- Cathy to share Pastoral Council meet & greet feedback with the staff
- Executive Committee to draft Town Hall Listening Session draft

The meeting concluded at 8:34PM with a closing prayer

Next Pastoral Council Meeting: Thursday 18 Jan 2018, 7:00PM, Vercelli House

Discussion Details:

We started the agenda with introductions between Michelle Heeren and the Pastoral Council members.

What Success Looks Like

Next we talked about an example of what we feel success (as the 4 Parish Collaboration of the Catholic Community of Waukesha) looks like, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration. We felt that this celebration was a microcosm of what success looks like. Fr. Chuck shared that the celebration spread throughout the city, becoming grander throughout the day, and included staff, Parishioners from all the Parishes, food, and more. Fr. Howard feels that ritual done well goes beyond language and that this ritual spoke very deeply with people of different backgrounds coming together. He shared he hope that this is the type of celebration that we as the Catholic Community of Waukesha build upon. Fr. Chuck highlighted that while the staff guided the planning of this celebration it truly came from the people. Rob thought it was a clear example of the mission statement of the Catholic Community of Waukesha coming to life.

Pastoral Council 'Meet and Greets' Feedback

During the past month various members of the Pastoral Council visited each Parish. Ken felt that these meet and greets went very well. The Parishioners that came to talk to the council members were generally grateful that we were there and for what we were doing while some questions and concerns also came up. Cathy compiled a summary of these questions and concerns to share with the entire Council. JoAnne felt that folks seemed to bring up things from the past. Boni noted that many things that were brought up were Parish specific. John thought that most of the concerns were around communication.

Flor shared that a comment concern she heard was that Parishioners don't know who to talk to or go to for assistance, for example to find out about cleaning up the church after the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration. Fr. Jose is already helping to address this. He is contacting St. Joe's worship committee to understand why the planning committee was told they could not leave decorations up after the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration. Flor said that she would follow up.

Ken said that he heard several concerns over the formation classes, but also feels that the new structure is taking advantage of opportunities (for example existing classroom resources). Marty commented that it is a challenge for families who may feel that they need to choose between their Parish and getting to classes. Cathy noted that the current formation class format is a challenge for multi-generational families who enjoy worshipping together are now struggling to maintain that time to go to Mass together. Fr. Howard shared that the formation structure will be re-visited at the end of the year based on feedback. These are experimental times and we need to reflect on the year to make things work better / re-evaluate how to best serve Parishioners. Michelle will look at the experience and feedback and ask the

hard questions needed to move forward improving the program. While we won't have 100% agreement, we can make it better.

Finally we had a discussion on whether we should continue doing these Pastoral Council meet and greets. Ken feels that we should continue doing this regularly, however that we should consider spreading out the Masses so that we do not attend Mass at all 4 Parishes in a single month, maybe every other week. We should also work at scheduling ahead of time to give both Parishioners and Council members time to plan ahead. Jennifer suggested that we try joining with hospitality Sundays in the future. She also noted that it would be good to plan on where people should stop to talk so that it is not in the middle of heavy traffic patterns.

Planning for Town Hall Listening Sessions

Ken started the conversation on the Town Hall Listening sessions by sharing the idea that we should start by explaining the purpose of the Pastoral Council, sharing where things are, and then we can open up to listening to folks' concerns. He felt that we should try to keep the meeting to 1hr to 1.5hrs max. The thought is that we try to copy what Scott and Charlotte did for the meeting discussing new Mass times where we have 1-2 slides for context prior to opening up the floor to feedback. Ken said that he has the St. Mary's community room reserved for Saturday January 13 and that we could plan a subsequent time before the January meeting, for example from 6-6:45 in the St. William Parish Hall.

Rob said that he is more concerned about what we want to accomplish than number of sessions. It is important that we listen and show empathy. When a concern is shared we should probe so that we understand where that is coming from / why the person is feeling that way. Finally we should invite Parishioners to join us in solutions.

Jennifer shared her concern that the session(s) would turn into gripe sessions. She said that we might consider dividing the session(s) into several categories and solicit comments on those areas. She also suggested encouraging folks to make positive comments. Boni felt that we don't want to control what people have to say. Fr. Jose thought that we might try a strategy where we have half positive comments and half concerns.

John sees the session(s) having 3 program parts:

- 1) What have we done since 'inception' as the Catholic Community of Waukesha
- 2) Summary of comments from the Pastoral Council 'meet and greets' and what has been done
- 3) Open floor for comments and concerns

Ken agreed that these sessions should really share the state of the community in addition to listening to Parishioner comments. He also pointed out that it would be good to get input from the staff to get their perspective on where we have come / where we are.

There was some discussion on whether we should have one or two 'big' sessions for the entire Catholic Community of Waukesha or smaller sessions at each Parish. Fr. Jose pointed out that since each Parish has its own individuality; each Parish also has different issues. If we have sessions at each Parish this might make it easier to address these different issues and 'control' the discussion from getting out of hand. Cathy shared that a concern seems to be that there is a fear of losing the individual identities and that having a session at each Parish may help alleviate some of this anxiety some Parishioners feel. On the opposite side Flor and Ken felt that bringing everyone together in a neutral location might also feed the positive. Fr. Chuck suggested a compromise that could bring out the best of working together and the Parish individuality. If we did have a single large meeting we could incorporate breakout sessions to discuss Parish specific concerns.

There was some discussion on what to call these sessions. Jennifer pointed out that we should not call them a town hall because that has a specific meaning as the corporate meeting while several folks were concerned that 'listening' session wasn't quite the right term either. Perhaps an update session or state of the Collaboration...

We also talked about who would run the sessions and who would / wouldn't be in attendance. It was agreed that the sessions would be run by the Pastoral Council with staff present. Fr. Howard's expectation is that, at minimum, the directors of each team should attend and that he would encourage all the staff to be there. Fr. Howard said that Steve Banas has agreed to this. Fr. Howard was still uncertain on whether or not the clergy should be in attendance. Ken shared that these sessions should help the Parishioners understand that the Pastoral Council supports the priests and we are the liaisons between Parishioners and clergy. Fr. Howard hopes that the sessions might help Parishioners realize that the directors are given the authority to make decisions and that not everything goes through the priests. Fr. Jose felt that Parishioners would feel more freedom to voice concerns without clergy present.

With respect to when to schedule the session(s), mid-January seems aggressive. While we don't want the sessions to be too far out we do want to do it right and ensure that we have enough time to set them up well. John felt like we need at least one more Pastoral Council meeting for preparation. Mid February seems more realistic timing. Ken said that the Executive Committee would come up with a draft for the session context and a bulletin announcement.

As we set up the session(s) there are a number of additional logistics to consider:

- Will we / who would tabulate comments?
- We will need translators
- Ensure that we have the right folks invited (Parishioners, Lisa Kovaleski, ...)

Communications Committee Update

Cathy shared updates from the communications committee, in particular sharing the communication committee's recommendation for a new logo for the Catholic Community of Waukesha and a draft collaboration prayer. There was little discussion on the prayer, but quite a bit on the logo recommendation. One discussion point was the fact that the logo doesn't show the individuality of the four Parishes. Some people felt that the Parish names should be included. Cathy pointed out that the names would likely be very small and difficult to read in small renderings. Other discussion was around how to show Parish individuality. It was acknowledged that it is difficult to express too much individuality while also expressing unity of individuality. The discussion concluded by the decision for Cathy to reach out to the logo designer asking him to create a second draft incorporating the following feedback:

- Remove the text 'A Collaboration of Four Parishes'
- Center the four small crosses equally (both horizontally and vertically) from the center of the main cross
- In addition to showing the unity of the four Parishes (symbolized by the four small crosses) is there a way to also show the individuality of the four Parishes (for example by making each of the smaller crosses a different color or different shades of the same color)
- While the design is very modern and professional, there was some feedback that it was a bit too cold

Update from Fr. Howard

Fr. Howard closed the meeting with several points.

- 1) A member from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Mark) will join and assist with the town hall / listening sessions we have
- 2) There are ongoing conversations with the new president of Catholic Memorial High School on future collaboration between the Catholic Community of Waukesha, WCSS, and CMH
- 3) There is a group dealing with facilities and TRANE gifted a facility audit
- 4) Reminder to invite everyone to Christmas Masses