

Parish Council Meeting: October 15, 2014

- 1) Opening Prayer: St. Teresa Of Jesus
- 2) Introductions
 - a. All members personally introduce themselves
- 3) Parish Council structure
 - a. St. John the Baptist parish council has been in crisis management mode since the Transfiguration merger in 2009 and continuing with the Holy Trinity merger of 2012
 - b. We want to get beyond the parish council dealing with things going wrong, complaints, etc, and start functioning as a normal council
 - c. Parish council members can help in terms of pastoral ministry
 - d. The diocese has guidelines on what a parish council should look like and we would like to begin to make our parish council resemble that more closely, including:
 - i. A charter
 1. Says nature of what we are, what we do as a council
 - ii. Parish mission statement
 - iii. Pastoral plan
 1. Huge document about future of the parish
 2. It will take a considerable amount of time to complete
 - iv. Spiritual formation for parish council members important
 - e. Diocese provides us with a template for the writing of a charter
 - i. Fr. Bob will inset some St. John specific information into the charter template and the charter will be discussed, edited, and confirmed at next parish council meeting.
 - f. Parish mission statement will start to be written after the completion of the charter
- 4) Mass: counts, space restrictions, etc.
 - a. St. John the Baptist currently has six weekend masses
 - i. Sat. 5:00pm, Sun. 9:00am, Sun 11:00am, Sun. 1:00pm in Spanish, Sun. 5:00pm, and Sun. 8:00pm.
 - b. The diocese asks all parishes to take October counts and submit them
 - i. Counts for the weekend of October 3 and 4, 2014 at St. John:
 1. Sat. 5:00pm: 200
 2. Sun. 9:00am: 290
 3. Sun 11:00am: 410
 4. Sun. 1:00pm in Spanish: 190
 5. Sun. 5:00pm: 242
 6. Sun. 8:00pm: 84
 - c. The church roughly has 390 seats and every week the 11:00am mass has standing room only with at least 400 individuals
 - d. Parking and seating are the biggest space concerns of the parish
 - e. The parish is only continuing to grow, gaining approximately two new families per week.
- 5) Gathering Space

- a. Unused
 - i. Essentially a large hallway used only for walking through and during funerals
 - ii. It was very expensive to build
- b. What do the parish council members think of walling off the open space with glass?
 - i. Benefits of doing so:
 - 1. It would cut off sound coming from the office, classrooms, front door, elevator
 - 2. It would allow the space to be used for events such as concerts, talks, etc.
 - 3. It would potentially down the road allow for the space to begin to be used as overflow space for larger masses
 - 4. Fairly inexpensive, glass least expensive because no dry walling needs to be done, glass also most visually pleasing, wouldn't break up the space like a full wall
 - ii. Council Member: a cry room is very necessary
 - 1. Fr. Bob: could turn the old baptistery space in the back of the church into a small cry room with sound, etc.
 - iii. Council Member: what is the plan/what are we going to do in terms of more seating for the church?
 - 1. Fr. Bob: there are two main ways that it would be physically possible to expand seating in the church
 - a. Gut and extend the balcony: potential for another 175 seats approximately
 - b. Put seating in the gathering space, knock out wall between sanctuary and gathering space
 - i. Sound and televisions a potential option out in that space
 - 2. This is very much down the road. Even if we put in more seating right now, where would the people park?
 - iv. Council Member: the ramp into the gathering space is the only handicap accessible route into the church. If glass walls are put up, will that church still be handicap accessible?
 - 1. Yes, nothing will change in this regard
 - v. All council members: in agreement that building a glass wall to section off the gathering space is a good idea and should be undertaken. Fr. Bob will instruct this to be completed, as per council's recommendation, ASAP.

6) HTSC

- a. Summary of history with HTSC building for new council members:
 - i. Pre-merger Fr. Bob was assured that there was no debt repayment problem by Bishop, Diocese pastoral planning, diocese CFO
 - ii. Post-merger diocese brings up debts, wants full payment ASAP
 - iii. Debt of approximately \$1 million

- iv. Building updates required in the amount of approximately \$130,000
 - b. Building has been returned to profane but not sordid use by decree of the diocese of Lansing
 - c. Eastern Michigan University has looked at the building twice, is potentially interested
 - d. Not on the market yet
 - e. Building appraises for \$1 million.
- 7) Campus Ministry
- a. There was almost no student ministry presence at Holy Trinity pre-merger
 - b. Fellowship of Catholic University Students is now in their second year of working with us and being on EMU's campus
 - i. Parish council members should familiarize themselves with FOCUS and the work that they do around the country
 - ii. St. Johns now has a permanent relationship with FOCUS, they will be here to work on campus as long as we (the pastor, the bishop) want them to be.
 - c. Now we have a growing student ministry on campus
 - i. 11 weekly bible studies
 - ii. Many students coming to 5pm and 8pm masses and weekend confessions
 - iii. ~20 students signed up for FOCUS SEEK national conference this January
 - iv. Tuesday night on campus game nights getting ~25 student attendants
 - d. Heidmarie Petersen is the coordinator of campus ministries and it is thanks to her and FOCUS that the student ministry is growing and vibrant
- 8) Other
- a. Setting the next meeting
 - i. Majority of council members agree that the next meeting should be in December
 - ii. Majority of council members agree that Wednesdays are a good evening
 - iii. Next meeting set for Wednesday, December 3
 - 1. First and main order of business will be the parish council charter
 - 2. Vote for parish council president
 - iv. Email will be sent to confirm this by parish council secretary
 - b. Role of parish council members
 - i. How were/are parish council members selected?
 - 1. That will be outlined in our charter
- 9) Closing Prayer