

St. Anthony on the Lake

Pastoral Council Meeting

Meeting Date: January 22, 2018
Meeting Time: 6:00 PM
Meeting Location: Conference Room

The meeting began at 6 PM with the following Pastoral Council members in attendance: Father Tony Zimmer, Joe Schroeder, Tony Wendorf, Patty Meehan-Swan, Bill Brewster, Cheryl Oliva, Mike Smith, Jeff Ellington, Terri Mahoney-Ogden, Dave Grunwaldt and Justin Staebler

1. Opening Prayer - Tony Wendorf

2. Stewardship Committee Report -Melinda Lanham and Ben Brzeski

Melinda Lanham, Stewardship Committee Chair and Ben Brzeski, Director of Communications and Stewardship presented the annual Stewardship Committee update to the Pastoral Council. An overview of the Stewardship Plan as well as the goal, mission and vision statements were reviewed. Measurable outcomes for the plan are increases in mass attendance, ministry engagement and financial contributions.

Melinda and Ben described that of five goals that were set for 2017, four have been accomplished and the fifth is well underway. The completed goals include:

- Parish website re-design to include one-click prayer opportunities and new parishioner information
 - StrengthsFinder implementation
 - Development of branding and language for stewardship: "Grateful, Generous, Growing"
 - Incorporation of an appreciation element at parish picnic with "Appreciation Tent"
- The goal of convening a Welcoming Team has begun and early steps were reviewed.

Melinda and Ben then led a review of data describing mass attendance, giving and engagement trends. This data included information from national Catholic organizations, the Milwaukee Archdiocese and from St. Anthony on the Lake Parish. A lively dialogue ensued among Council members with Melinda and Ben regarding St. Anthony's four-year engagement trends of mass attendance, ministry involvement and sacrificial giving.

Father Tony noted that the parish has done substantial work to clean up the data on parish census, giving and ministry participation to ensure that the numbers are

accurate. Joe S. asked if there was a cohort we could compare ourselves to versus general data trends. Joe suggested the Catalyst parish group as a cohort but Ben expressed there is no data sharing of this type among the Catalyst group at present. Melinda L. added that our parish is growing but the growth is outpacing engagement currently. She would like us to understand more about this trend. She suggested that the number of young families joining the parish is increasing our census but this may not be a group that is actively engaged in ministries yet. Melinda added that the Stewardship Committee is starting to work closely with Ellen K. (school) and Kathy A. (faith formation) about stewardship efforts with children.

In terms of next steps, Melinda and Ben noted that Stewardship is in the second year of their five year plan. They detailed the work of the Stewardship Sub-Committee Groups and described some action steps that are in development. A reconfiguration of the annual Sacrificial Giving Renewal is being considered. Welcome and orientation efforts for new parishioners are being renewed.

2018 - 2023 Parish Strategic Objectives were reviewed and Joe S. noted the outstanding alignment between Stewardship efforts and our Mission, Vision and Strategic Objectives. Father Tony echoed his gratitude to Melinda, Ben and their team. In response to the question of how the Pastoral Council can offer support, Melinda and Ben offered that prayer, courageous leadership, messaging with clarity and simplicity and continuing to serve as parish ambassadors would be most helpful. The Pastoral Council acknowledged Melinda and Ben for the outstanding presentation.

3. Pastor's Report - Father Tony Collaboration:

- Fr. Chuck Hanel is now on sabbatical in England. Fr. Peter Drenzyk is serving as the Temporary Administrator
- We will not be meeting again until sometime in May
- Alpha 3.0 begins soon. Testimonials have been given. PR continues. And registration has begun
- RCIA continues

Covenant Planning:

- With the completion and approval of our updated Parish Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and 5-year Strategic Plan, work has progressed in the development of our Parish Covenant.
- The Planning Team continues to meet, including a meeting today

- Listening Sessions were held on the weekend of January 13-14. Approximately 70 people gathered to offer their input on various questions connected to our Parish Mission
- Next steps include taking everyone's feedback and formulating into covenant statements. This will be done by Maureen Gallagher and myself
- We will be seeking approval from the Pastoral Council at its April meeting, making our Covenant public, pledging commitment on Pentecost weekend, and promulgating it at our 100th Jubilee Celebration in June

Staff:

- Brad Vogel, our Physical Education teacher in our school, is no longer employed here at St. Anthony's. We wish him all the best. Ellen has already begun the search for a new teacher

Miscellaneous:

- Over 4200 people joined us to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord. The music, décor, and the celebrations were all beautiful. Many thanks to Laurie and our team of dedicated parishioners for helping us to survive! 😊
- Normally a quieter month, January has been everything but... weddings, funerals, Partners in Mercy, School Open House have kept us very busy!
- The "Grow in Your Heart" Capital Campaign Team met with Fred Stolz from the James Company to check on our progress, as we mark the half-way point of our campaign. Two observations were made:
 1. While we have paid down more than \$1 million over the past 18 months on our mortgage, we are lagging in the collection of our current pledges. It is estimated that over the next 18 months we should be able to collect an additional \$360,000.00 to \$400,000.00 in our pledged commitments. This would leave the balance of our loan at approximately \$900,000.00
 2. We need to address the collection of additional funds to eliminate the entire remaining debt. To do so, Fred Stolz recommended doing two things:
 - A. Soliciting additional funds/donations from major donors and others who have not contributed to the campaign to bring the debt below the \$1 million mark before Labor Day of 2018. In addition to that, celebrate a "Half-way" bench mark with all parishioners. Include a verbal and written communication, updating parishioners about the status of our debt and invite them to remain current on their pledges or consider making one, if they have not done so already. Invite them for cake and coffee after all the Masses that weekend

- B. At our annual Commitment Weekend for our Stewardship of Sacrificial Giving in November, include a renewal commitment to extend their Debt Retirement pledge or offer a new pledge for an additional 7-8 months to pay off the remainder of the loan. He is suggesting that this be an "all out" push to help us remain fiscally responsible

This proposal will be presented to our Cabinet, and our Stewardship Committee in February for their input, before being presented to our Finance Council for their ultimate feedback and approval

- Our Partners in Mercy weekend with St. Hyacinth's went well. The Executive Director, Steve, did a great job presenting. Over \$3000.00 was collected to benefit St. Hyacinth's
- First Reconciliation was celebrated with 65 of our children and their families on January 17th and 20th. It was a wonderful celebration! Many thanks to Debbie Kusch and Kathy Paro for all their good work!
- Mostaccioli Madness is on January 27th. Come and support our school children trying to raise money for their annual 8th Grade DC trip!
- Catholic Schools Week starts on January 28th. Join us for our annual Open House on January 28th and come and see first-hand what a difference a Catholic education can make in the life of a child. We can very proud of the excellent work and commitment of our entire faculty, staff, administration, parents, and students! Thank you to all for their hard work in preparing for this special week!
- Our Annual Catholic Stewardship Appeal kicks off the weekend of February 3 - 4. A videotaped message from Archbishop ListECKI will be played at all the Masses. For the second year in a row, our parish has surpassed its goal of \$130,000.00. We collected over \$142,000.00! Many thanks to our generous donors!
- Be sure to join us for our Mid-Winter Gala, "All Keyed Up," on Saturday, February 10th. All proceeds will go to benefit the many fine ministries and programs of our Life-long Faith Formation Department. Many thanks to Suzanne Cain and the entire CF staff for their hard work!
- Believe it or not, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. As always, many opportunities will be made available to help us prepare for Easter and strengthen our faith. Vespers, Stations, Adoration, Rice Bowls, Service Projects, and a Lenten Mission with Jeanne Cotter and concert with both her and Tony Alonzo from March 3 - 6, will be happening. Our Lenten and Mission Theme will be "All is Holy." Please join us!

- And before all of this unfolds, I am getting out of Dodge for my annual Winter vacation. I will be leaving on the afternoon of January 28th and returning in the evening of February 9th. Adios!

4. Trustee Report - Cheryl Oliva

Cheryl provided a financial update and described that year end numbers have not been finalized. Blue envelope giving increased in December possibly due to tax law changes but there is not certainty about how this impacts the campaign yet. White envelopes however had a slight falling off. Operating revenues are down slightly. Our endowment funds for both the School and Faith Formation grew due to the performance of the stock market. Cheryl closed by noting that while specific numbers are not in yet, the Finance Council, Father Tony, Art Scheuber and the Trustees continue to watch the financial status of the parish closely.

5. Chairperson's Report - Joe Schroeder

Joe highlighted the efforts that continue regarding Strategic Planning and Parish Covenant development. He noted that as a Council we need to develop and advance our goal to participate in an outreach project together. Terri M-O and Patty M-S will provide an update in agenda item 8.

6. Covenant Development Update -Father Tony and Joe Schroeder

Father Tony provided an overview of the initiative and actions that have taken place. He noted that the covenant work feels groundbreaking. He feels energized that the homily describing the Strategic Planning was very well received. He acknowledged Joe's expertise in planning and facilitating the process.

Father Tony described that The Covenant Planning Team met prior to tonight's Pastoral Council meeting. Listening Sessions were held last weekend. Approximately seventy parishioners attended. The sessions were well received. The overall sense was that we got good feedback. We were able to compile all of the statements and feedback. Patterns and trends emerged. Maureen Gallagher, has served as our consultant in this process and has organized the feedback into themes. Father Tony summarized the themes:

1. There was an appreciation for all that St. Anthony parish is.
2. There was a desire for deeper relationships with each other and the need to know each other personally.

3. The idea of enhancing collaboration with other parishes and agencies was mentioned as a way to enhance ministries.
4. The desire to reach out to those in need was found throughout the responses.
5. The recognition that all are on a faith journey permeated the responses in many areas.

Father Tony described that next steps will include offering copies of the feedback to Standing Committee members before the February Common Leadership. At the 2/12 meeting the Committees will devote 15 minutes of discussion centered on three questions:

1. What surprised you?
2. What's missing?
3. How would these statements influence the ministry of your Committee?

This responses from Standing Committee members will be recorded and reviewed. Father Tony and Maureen will then begin the work of articulating the St. Anthony's Covenant. The Covenant will be presented at the April 24th Pastoral Council meeting, introduced to the parish on Pentecost weekend and officially celebrated at the Parish Centennial. Father Tony will deliver several homilies to set the tone and Maureen G. is developing additional teaching materials.

Joe concluded the discussion by reminding the Council that the purpose of creating the covenant is to build a more engaged parish where people can identify their strengths, deepen their faith and have clear expectations.

7. Grow from your Heart Capital Campaign Follow-up Meeting - Father Tony

Father Tony highlighted information that was presented in his Pastor's Report, agenda item 3. The "Grow in Your Heart" Capital Campaign Team met with Fred Stolz from the James Company to check on progress, as we mark the half-way point of our campaign. Two observations were made:

1. While we have paid down more than \$1 million over the past 18 months on our mortgage, we are lagging in the collection of our current pledges. It is estimated that over the next 18 months we should be able to collect an additional \$360,000.00 to \$400,000.00 in our pledged commitments. This would leave the balance of our loan at approximately \$900,000.00
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- A. Soliciting additional funds/donations from major donors and others who have not contributed to the campaign to bring the debt below the \$1 million mark before Labor Day of 2018. In addition to that, celebrate a "Half-way" bench mark with all parishioners.
- B. At our annual Commitment Weekend for our Stewardship of Sacrificial Giving in November, include a renewal commitment to extend their Debt Retirement pledge or offer a new pledge for an additional 7-8 months to pay off the remainder of the loan.

This proposal will be presented to our Cabinet, and our Stewardship Committee in February for their input, before being presented to our Finance Council for their ultimate feedback and approval. Father Tony emphasized that this update for Pastoral Council is informational only and no review or approval is needed. Father Tony also emphasized the importance of not confusing parishioners when communicating details about this information.

8. Council Outreach Project Update - Terri Mahoney-Ogden and Patty Meehan-Swan

Terri and Patty reviewed some options for the outreach activity. The group agreed that they would like to serve the St. Vincent DePaul meal at the Milwaukee South Side meal site on March 25th. Patty will make arrangements to coordinate this with the meal site. The tentative plan will be to leave from St. Anthony's at 4:30 PM. The meal is served from 5:30 until 6:15. Specific details will follow. We might also have an opportunity to visit Legacy Assisted Living after a mass as a group.

9. Liaison Representative Check-in - Tony Wendorf

Tony led a discussion of feedback from Standing Committee meetings.

Father Tony reminded the group that we will need two representatives from our parish for the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. This will be an agenda item for our February meeting.

10. Closing Prayer - Tony Wendorf

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 PM

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Common Leadership: Monday, 2/12 at 6:30 PM (Opening/Closing Prayers by School Committee)

Pastoral Council: Monday, 2/26 at 6 PM (Vespers at 6:30/Prayer and Worship Committee Report)

Respectfully submitted by Patty Meehan-Swan