**St. Edward Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

**October 3, 2017**

**6:30 P.M.**

**Present:** Barb Pippenger, Tom Determan, Sr. Lynn Michelau, Mike Marz, Shirley Chmielewski, Jean Spencer, Fr. Allen Bratkowski, Fran Angelini, Rob Sterbl, Hayley Syring, Cindi Johnson (staff to the council)

**Excused**: Dave Tuttle, Diane Smith

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm

**Opening Prayer:** Mike Marz led the opening prayer.

**Approval of Minutes from August 1, 2017 Pastoral Council Meeting:**

There were a few minor changes to the minutes. Tom Determan, Sr. motioned that the minutes be accepted with the minor changes and Rob Sterbl seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Old Business**

**School Collaboration Updates:**

* Brenda White was hired as president for Siena Catholic Schools of Racine.
* They are currently interviewing for the Director of Schools position and Director of Finances position.

**Parish Cluster Updates:**

* Our three clustering parishes are working on coming up with a name for the cluster which must reflect that we are Catholic and our geographical area. Some suggestions are Central Racine Catholic Communities and Central Racine United Catholic Communities. The next meeting is December 5.
* The committee for the clustering parishes consists of Joan Feil for Human Concerns, Bill Frayer for Liturgy,

Rita Burgess for Stewardship, Fr. Allen for St. Edward and St. Richard parishes, Fr. Anthony for St. Patrick parish, and Eloy Contreras representing all three parishes.

**Archdiocesan Sponsored Parish Leader events**

* There are two more sessions of the Multi-Parish Institute scheduled for November and January. The first one was held in September.
* There is a stewardship conference on Friday November 3 or Saturday November 4.

**New Business**

**New Member Weekend:**

* The packets were not out for the New Member Weekend this past weekend. Cindi was not informed to put the packets in the back of church. We had a few people looking for the packets. Lynn Michelau will notify Cindi when a New Member Weekend is coming up.

**Parishioner Concerns:**

* Question: Why don’t we have the American flag on the Altar? Fr. Allen’s response: It is not appropriate for the American flag to be in the sanctuary. It is placed in the back of the church.
* Question: Could we someday have a Polka Mass? Fr. Allen’s response: We had one for Fall Fun Fest a few years ago and it did not go over big.
* Parishioner’s comment about the music: The piano playing is too forceful.

**St. Edward Open House:**

* St. Edward will have an open house on October8, 2017 welcoming St. Richard parishioners to see what St. Edward has to offer.
* Mass will be at 9:30am. There will be no Mass at 9am at St. Richard’s but they will have their 11:30am Mass.
* Following the Mass there will be refreshments provided by the Women of St. Edward’s. Laura Gellott will give a presentation on the history of St. Edward. There will be displays and a quilt pertaining to the history of St. Edwards.
* Bill Frayer will give tours of the church, Bruce Varick will be in the school, and Lorie Czerwinski will be in the CDC to answer any questions visitors may have.
* The Racine Dominicans have been invited to attend as they played a big part in our parish in years past.

**Other Items:**

* St. Edward will celebrate its 100 year anniversary in 2019. We need to begin planning for the big event in the very near future.
* Fall Fun Fest: The delicious fish fry went really well. All the fish was sold. The turkey dinner went well. People suggested that we should have stuffing along with the turkey. The meat raffle was a tremendous success, and the kid’s games did really well, as did the corn roast. ACTS provided overnight security on Friday and Saturday which is greatly appreciated.
* The rosary will be recited on Saturdays in October at 4:00pm before the 4:30pm Mass and will be led by the Women of St. Edward.
* Future meeting dates for St. Edward Pastoral Council will be on November 7, February 6, April 3, and June 5, which will be a joint meeting with the Finance Council.
* A first of two joint pastoral council meetings with St. Richard’s pastoral council will be held on December 5 at 6:00PM hosted by St. Edward. It will be a very brief business meeting followed by a seasonal reflection and potluck dinner. The second joint meeting will be on March 19 (tentative) at 6:00PM hosted by St. Richard. It will consist of a joint business meeting and a Lenten reflection / prayer service.
* The pastoral council would like to get tags, probably lanyards, to identify us as council members so the parish would know who we are should they have a need for anything.
* The pastoral council photos in the breezeway need to be updated. Fr. Allen will talk to Steve Zimmerman to see if he can take the pictures as he has done this in the past.
* Lynn Michelau will update the parish website with the current pastoral council members and trustees.

**Committee Reports**

**Prayer and Worship:**

* The Masses for the holy day of obligations will be celebrated at St. Edward’s at 8am, which is an all school Mass, and St. Richard’s at 6pm.
* Christmas Eve: Mass at St. Richard at 4:00pm, St. Edward at 4:30pm and 10:00pm at St. Richard.
* Christmas Day: St. Edward at 9:30am and St. Richard at 10:00am.
* On Holy Thursday the Mass will be celebrated at St. Edward and Holy Saturday Mass will be at St. Richard.

**Human Concerns:**

* The St. Ed’s St. Vincent de Paul Chapter will consolidate with the Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapter as of October 1st. Cheryl Mueller of St. Patrick’s will be the new president. Jim Erven of St. Ed’s will be one of the VP’s. Bill Frayer will be one of the two treasurers. While most money will be merged into one account, we will retain a checkbook and some separate funds to operate our traditional programs – Holiday food baskets, Christmas Fair Cream Puffs, assistance to our own parishioners in need. Combined visit teams will be formed for those in the area seeking help for rent, utilities, etc. We will cover the south side of Racine and St. Rita’s and Sacred Heart (also combined) will cover the north side. Meetings will now be on the 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm rotating monthly between St. Richard’s and St. Ed’s. There’s also a city-wide meeting on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2:00pm at St. Paul’s.
* Sign-up continues for sponsors, walkers for the Soles for Education Walk on October 21 to benefit OLGA. The Crop Walk on Sunday generated $175, well down from last year. All the appeals for Hurricane Relief probable tapped a lot of people out along with the continued decline in our Mass attendance, parish numbers.
* The Mario’s/St. Ed’s softball team finished the season 8-4, tied for 1st place but lost out on a tiebreaker for the title.

**School Advisory Board:**

* The School Advisory Board has not met. Three people have left. No new date has been set as of this time.

**Stewardship:**

* Rita Burgess and Bill McCormack are to put something together for this committee.

**Evangelization & Formation:**

* Classes for religious education (K thru8) began on Sunday September 10. Twenty students have registered. Classes for Confirmation I, II, and III (9, 10, & 11) began on Wednesday, September13. Seventeen students have registered. In order to provide our students with a fuller religious education experience, this year our high school students will be meeting for classes on Wednesday evenings at St. Patrick’s Parish.
* Sunday October 8 will be our first Life Long Learning event. Laura Gellott will be making a presentation on the 98th Anniversary of St. Edward. There will be an Open House in the Church, School and Child Development Center, with a reception to follow.
* ACT Youth Activities:
* John Bosco Day: “Cling to the Rock” at this year’s John Bosco Day at the Basilica of Holy Hill on Saturday October 7
* ACTS Youth Rally; ACTS Youth Ministry teens are raffling a 16 Gig Ipod Touch to raise funds for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Aztec Dancers.
* Breakfast Brunch Buffet: Sunday October 29 10am-1pm at St. Patrick’s Parish. Breakfast benefits the ACTS Youth Ministry 2018 Summer Mission Trip & Youth Conference.
* ACTS Youth Ministry Mission Trip and Youth Conference: This year we are hoping to travel to Mobile, AL for the “Alive in You” Work Camp and attend the Steubenville On THE Lake Youth Conference held at Carthage College.
* Liturgy of the World for Children began on Sunday, Sept. 10. Parishioners Mary Hinkston and Jean Spencer have volunteered to serve as catechists / facilitators.

**Finance/Budget Update**:

* We have received the Voucher check from the state.

**Endowment:**

* There is no new report at this time.

**Staff Reports**

**Our Lady of Grace Academy:**

* Bruce Varick announced that he is resigning as principal of Our Lady of Grace Academy to accept the position of Associate Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This transition will occur over the next several weeks, and he will remain as principal until a successor is in place.
* Enrollment is currently at 211. This is down from last year. We did have a higher number than usual physically move out of the area and a higher number transferred to SCHS. There were a few who were strongly encouraged not to return as well.
* The year is off to a good start. We have implemented literacy centers in a number of grade levels, and elective program in Middle School, STAR testing, and a band (as an extra-curricular activity). We have also added 50 more Chromebooks, which has allowed us to put 5 Chromebooks in each classroom on a permanent basis.
* We continue to work together as principals to bring more uniformity to some of the things that we do – primarily in-service at this time – as the Siena Catholic School network comes on line. Brenda White has been hired as president of the network, and they are currently interviewing for the director of schools position.

**Christian Formation:**

* See the Evangelization and Formation section in Committee Reports above.

**Child Development Center:**

* 2017 marks or 19th year as a state licensed preschool and child care center. We were given an Award of Accreditation from the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs back in July. Getting this accreditation has greatly diminished the extreme stress my teachers have been under with Youngstar.
* Our enrollment is at capacity. We have over 130 children enrolled; this includes infant through school age children, with an average daily attendance of 80 children. We have opened Jr. Kindergarten classroom which has 16 children enrolled. In addition to that, we have 4K, 3K, 2K, two toddler classrooms, infant classroom and a school age classroom.
* The CDC was given a grant by Workforce Development to continue on with the Parent Cafes. The first Parent Café is on Tuesday, October 17.
* The center was given the honor of being voted third best child care provider by the Best of Racine County 2017. They have ranked in the top three for the past six years.

**Pastor’s Remarks**

* The West Racine Area Churches is having a Pet Blessing on Saturday, October 8 at 10am. This will be held on St. Edward’s playground or in the breezeway if it is raining.
* On Saturday morning, November 4, at 10am St. Edward will host the West Racine Area Churches Recognition Service honoring the veterans of our community in anticipation of Veterans Day.
* There will be an evening of reflection and prayer on Tuesday, October 24 at 7pm for Eucharistic ministers, Lectors, Servers, ushers, Greeters, and Choir members.
* Adrian Lynch has been hired as the Coordinator of Child & Family Ministry.

**Closing Prayer:** The closing prayer was led by Lynn Michelau.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, at 5:00pm

Opening prayer: Fr. Allen Closing prayer: Jean Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Spencer

Secretary