

Our Lady of the Lakes Pastoral Minutes

Monday, Jan 24, 2022

1. Call to Meeting and Roll Call:

Meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM by Peter Bemis

Members present: Fr. Gideon Buya, Chad Keller, Peter Bemis, Jenny Leider, Natalie Brochtrup, Rich Schwab, Bonnie Steffen, Antonette Zellmer, Jim Barton

Absent (excused): Gary Feider, Jacob Birenbaum

(unexcused): Pam Huiras

Guests: Leon Jacoby, Deb Hamm

2. Guest Comments: Mr. Jacoby informed the council that there is a website available called Mission Insight that will pull demographic information (sortable). He also indicated that he feels things are being decided within the parish that are not being communicated to parishioners.

3. Committee Reports (see website for recent minutes):

A. Prayer and Worship- Pam Huiras-

Mass attendance was discussed. Mass attendance overall has declined since Covid.

Bonnie asked if the committee could limit the number of songs during Communion to one song and then either quiet time or instrumental music so people could have time to pray or reflect without the distraction of the songs.

It was also suggested that there is a longer pause between the time we can greet others at the beginning of Mass before the music starts playing. Deb offered to talk to Suzanne and ask for a longer pause.

B. Christian Formation and Evangelization- Antonette Zellmer:

The committee is looking at estimates for a drinking fountain for student use during Faith Formation.

The Mission Trip is scheduled for June in Pittsburgh, PA. There will be 15 participants going on this trip.

18 youth will be participating in the Confirmation retreat at Holy Hill.

Mady Bemis created a Marriage pamphlet for marriage candidates.

There are 25 First Communicants. First Communion will be at the April 24 and May 1, 2022 Masses.

There are 6 adults who are participating in Adult Faith Formation classes.

Michael Donahou will speak on the Book of Exodus on May 12 and 19.

May Crowning will be on May 8, 2022 .

C. Human Concerns - Jim Barton

Hygiene Bags were collected and sorted for St. Bens.

There will be a blood drive in Random Lake on Apr 4, 2022 .

Margaret Bemis will write Easter cards.

Anchor of Hope (Women's care center) 40 Days of Prayer: It was decided that there was too much going on for Lent now, and Human Concerns hopes to participate/support this in the future.

D. Stewardship/Outreach- Bonnie Steffen

No new news.

E. Finance- Rich Schwab

No new news.

The parish finances are in good shape.

The Love One Another campaign was discussed.

There was a listening session to look towards the future. The committee has a plan to have more listening sessions in the future.

There is a window at the Dacada chapel that needs to be replaced.

The challenge is "how do we go from maintenance to mission?" As ideas are discussed, the sustainability of ideas needs to be examined.

The furnace will come to a point where parts for the boiler will not be available.

The rectory at Dacada is on the market, but is not yet sold. Discussion regarding the feasibility of housing our new Priest at the rectory ensued. The pros and cons of this was discussed. There is also a rectory at the Holy Cross chapel site that could also house the Priest. Allowing retired priests to live there was also discussed. Due to the rural nature of the sites, these options may not be enticing to either active or retired clergy.

4. Old Business:

A. Ministry Fair-

The ministry fair is scheduled for June 5 in conjunction with the Brat Fry fundraiser.

The fair will run from 9:30-12:00.

Peter Bemis volunteered to set up and Jim Barton and Rich Schwab offered to help.

Peter asked the committee liaisons to communicate with their committees and get a list of interested participants.

Offering attendees an incentive to visit multiple booths was discussed. The idea of a "passport" with a raffle prize to people who visited multiple booths as an option.

Peter will send an e-mail to committee heads to provide details and gauge interest in participating.

B. Love One Another Capital Campaign-

We are in Phase 1 of the campaign. Our goal remains the same- \$483,645. We currently are at 41% of our goal with 23 pledges. The average pledge is \$8,678.

The initial phase of the campaign reached 90-100 parishioners. There will be a mailing to the rest of the parish during the week of March 28 that will outline the improvements planned at OLL and the Archdiocesan needs.

The public phase of the campaign will kick off during the week of April 2 and 3, 2022. There will be a video that will play during Hospitality and potentially at Mass. Jim Barton indicated that there is a new projector that has better quality if the video is to play during Mass.

Fr. Gideon suggested that we continue to call people to discuss the campaign and to let people know that they will be called. Follow up calls are particularly important.

5. New Business:

A. Fr.Gideon's Farewell-

The option of holding a Farewell Gathering for Fr.Gideon was discussed. The options discussed were to either combine with Divine Savior with a gathering on June 4 after the 4:30 Mass or to host our own celebration- possibly having Fr. Gideon stay for the Brat Fry on June 5. After discussion, it was decided that we will combine with Divine Savior for the event in the evening of June 4. Fr. Gideon agreed to stay after the 8:15 AM Mass on June 5 for the OLL Brat Fry. He does have a Baptism later in the morning. A substitute priest will celebrate at Holy Cross that morning.

B. Pastoral Council Elections-

Jacob Birenbaum, Jim Barton and Pam Huiras are approaching the end of their terms. Chad discussed the role of the Trustee and outlined the responsibilities. They are

considered the custodians of the goods of the parish. They can provide signatures for financial or legal matters (must be signed by Fr. Gideon and a Trustee). They are involved in both the Finance Committee and the Pastoral Council. Trustees serve a 2 year term.

Peter volunteered to speak at the April 10 Mass regarding the upcoming discernment process for new Council nominees. Natalie, Bonnie, Jacob and Peter will call nominees and invite them to the May 17 meeting. New members will then be invited to the May 23 meeting with installment at the July meeting.

It was asked if the discernment meeting would be open to the public. Parish members could nominate themselves if they wanted to attend. A notice could be placed in the bulletin asking for prayers for nominees as they proceed through the discernment process.

C. Decision Making and Transparency

We do a good job of reviewing Council minutes and supporting Fr. Gideon in his parish leadership role. Examples of this include the Lenten Series, focusing on spiritual growth, etc.

We need to ensure that when significant decisions are made by committees, the council takes ample time to discuss and approve them. Examples include: approving the Religious Education and Faith Formation schedules, Fundraising activities and their purpose and timing, etc.

Our committees and Pastoral Council seem to run well. There is sometimes a fine line between what needs to be approved and good communication is essential to ensure decisions are being made appropriately.

D. Finance Council Takeaways

There should be more transparency with the parish finances through the Finance Committee. While Canon Law dictates that meetings should be closed, minutes should be published to the website for the Finance council and subcommittees (i.e., Building and Grounds).

There is currently a financial report in the newsletter and a comprehensive report given at the Annual Meeting. When questions or concerns arise by parishioners, Council members are encouraged to refer them to the Finance Committee members or to Terri Schuelller if they do not know the answers. For example, a question was asked about Endowment Funds and how they are used. Finance committee members indicated that there are specific bylaws and regulations as to how those funds are used.

E. Other New Business-

- a. Rich asked if we can eliminate or limit food at the meetings. The hospitality is nice, but it does take a lot of time. There was discussion on alternating the timing of the meetings with the host parish holding their meeting after the joint meeting. Peter was going to discuss with Bill Johannes regarding the feasibility/possibility of this

happening.

- b. Natalie asked if there was the possibility of hosting a New Parishioner Dinner. In the past, new members were given tickets and a flower to attend the Ham Dinner. The flower indicated that they were new parishioners. We have relatively few new members annually, so it may not be feasible to host a separate event.

Opening/Closing prayers for next meeting:

Opening- Antonette Zellmer

Closing- Jenny Leider

6. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for 5/23 at 7:00 PM following the Joint Cluster Meeting at the OLL chapel.

8. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM

Motion made by: Rich Schwab

Seconded by: Chad Keller

Respectfully submitted,
Natalie Brochtrup
OLL Pastoral Council Secretary