

THE PARISH OF ST. EUGENE PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

In Attendance: Fr. Patrick Cahill, Deacon Mike Zboyovski, Richard Anderson (Chair), Julieth Duarte (Vice Chair), Sabine Dieringer (Secretary), Terry Yeager, Hamp Hampton, Ron Shigley, Eric Jedd, Deliz Romero, Susan Russo Klein and Andrea Robles-Leon

Excused: Denise Cope

- **Meeting began with prayer by Susan**
- **Minutes** were approved.
- **Brigid Sullivan** asked if fruit could be reintroduced after all Masses; her committee will recruit people for pickup and preparation to be announced February 23-24 with sign-up sheets & “roll-out” March 9th; cost: \$50 every two weeks
- **Joe Wansong**, a board member of the ecumenical *Loving Neighbors Child Development Center (LNCDC)* intended to serve known poverty-stricken pre-school children from the St. Eugene, St. Mark’s Lutheran, St. Mary’s Episcopal and St. Paul’s United Methodist churches, was asked by his board to discuss the feasibility of establishing and financing the LNCDC with their own church’s leadership; **Joe** provided a business plan to show costs of creating and maintaining it, and elaborated that even with parental funds plus money from NC vouchers, thousands of grant dollars would still be needed each year to operate the Center; thus the four churches could not sustain LNCDC; it would be unrealistic to try to obtain large amounts of grant money needed each year nor develop an operating reserve providing 1-2 years of financial backup; the LNCDC board of directors recognizes the value of such a Center but also recognizes that it is not financially feasible; **Joe** felt that after speaking to Fr. Pat and the Parish Council that St. Eugene would want to look for other ecumenical possibilities to achieve the Center’s vision.
- **Deacon Mike** questioned St. Mark’s liability; **Fr. Pat** suggested that we have an ecumenical outreach commission to study the matter; funding would only cover one year – other funding sources to be explored
- **Ron** suggested we develop a safe environment for the Parish’s children using local government agencies as well as insurance agencies to give suggestions by their underwriters as to how to reduce our liability exposure pertaining to child care.
- **Rich** asked if NC coastal churches needed help with flooding, etc., could our church provide manpower, food, clothing, etc.; **Fr. Pat** suggested formal arrangements and approval from the Raleigh diocese, in whose jurisdiction this would be, as well as ours (per **Julieth’s** suggestion) may require discreet approval; **Fr. Pat** also mentioned that *Catholic Charities* would likely provide disaster relief
- **Rick Lober and his Committee (Lyn Heth & Susan)** provided the status of the letter sent to Bishop Jugis re: past abuses & mentioned that individual letters were also sent – no response as of yet; **Rich** contacted various members of the diocese to discuss policy & accountability issues including: the Pastoral Center to report sexual abuse (704) 370-6299, which doesn’t accept messages; Rick Menze, Review Board Chair; Diocesan attorney Joe Dodge; and, David Harold, Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator; some responses included: “...complaints of a sexual nature are reported to civil authorities” after which “Review Board takes no action until civil authorities report investigated results possibly taking several months or longer.” “Diocese funds potential victim’s counseling/therapy even if case is not substantiated;” “Review Board serves only as an advisory board;” “bishop solely responsible not his flock;” all sexual misconduct allegations handled as follows: Chancellor, Msgr. Mauricio West, to bishop, Diocesan attorney, the Review Board & Victim Assistance Coordinator; 60-70% of allegations investigated by a retired FBI agent
- **Rick** also developed *Talking Points* to meet with Bishop Jugis & Diocesan representative including:
 - Bishop Jugis’ acknowledgement & personal statement regarding Church sexual abuse crisis
 - Develop local, regional outreach contacts in parishes
 - Comprehensive review of the current Church policy regarding sexual abuse and implement compliance reforms to ensure the Diocese “Practices what it Preaches”
 - Bishops & higher Church officials must be held to, at a minimum, the same standards that apply to clergy regarding sexual abuse

- Laity must be a joint partner, not merely a small minority advisor, regarding reforms to address the sexual abuse crisis
- **Fr. Pat** explained that Bishop Jugis “heard the call for reform” but feels that the Pope’s focus is on a “global issue” to be addressed at the February meeting in Rome
- **Deacon Mike & Rich** suggested that **Rick’s** Committee should talk to other local parishes about what our parish is doing before meeting with Vicariate
- **Ron** suggested that Masses could be more upbeat if the Hispanic and Anglican Masses would be combined bringing about inclusion rather than separation
- **Rich & Sabine** asked that a Liturgy Commission be instituted & certain attendant responsibilities be delegated to the Commission rather than the Parish staff – the Council approved
- **Fr. Pat** also announced that an architect will study maze to include a roof
- **Fr. Pat** announced that all Ministry heads are invited to attend a pot-luck on **January 12th at noon, makeup date: February 9th**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Next Meeting: February 5, 2019

Minutes prepared and respectively submitted by Sabine Dieringer