

St. John Paul II Parish Pastoral Council Minutes – Tuesday, 01-09-2018

Members Present: Fr. Mike Ignaszak, Fr. Michael Wolfe, Beth Eichman, Chris Gramling, Herman Guzman, Roger Hagen, Bob Lynch, Maggie Lynch, Dean Pluskota and Anita Wucherer.

Excused: Angie Conchi and Alice Palacio-Gomez.

Guest: Roy Salinas

Chairman Bob Lynch called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Roger led us in opening prayer.

Approval of December 5th Pastoral Council Minutes

The minutes of 12/05/2017 were reviewed and there were no additions or changes. Roger moved to approve the minutes and Chris seconded the motion. All present approved the minutes.

Pastoral Staff Ministry Report: Roy Salinas, Lifelong Faith Formation

- Roy mentioned how English speaking catechists came forward to help with the Religious Ed program this year. We have also many fine Spanish volunteers helping with the Religious Ed program.
- “With All Our Hear” we have prayer meetings the first and third Sundays.
- We have 70 youth in the Confirmation program. We originally had 88 youth but some dropped out due to their busy school schedule or they were not ready yet to receive the sacrament.
- We may have to change the Confirmation program to the weekday or Saturday due to lack of space.
- Our catechists think the Religious Ed program is all about formation and family. Some are EMHC but are not on other committees so they give this their all.
- Families took ownership with the Posadas.
- New generations of families are coming in. Wonderful things are happening here at St. John Paul II Parish. Our parish has a good reputation and is pastoral.
- We will have 225 children receive First Communion this year compared to 155 children last year from both schools and the Religious Ed program.
- I will be taking a Cannon Law class through the archdiocese this spring.

Council Chair Report: Bob Lynch

- No Report this month.

Synod Implementation Update: Bob Lynch – No Report this month.

Pastor’s Report: Fr. Mike Ignaszak

- Happy New Year To all!
- All the celebrations of the Christmas Season were wonderful. Thank you to Robert Martin and all those involved in music ministry. Thank you to the environment committees who decorated for Advent and Christmas as well. Thank you to Fr. Wolfe and the “Guadalupe a Reyes” committee who planned everything from the Guadalupe and Immaculate Conception celebrations through all the Posadas and Christmas and even the Special Epiphany celebrations. The three kings, Mary and Joseph, and of course baby Jesus, were spotted at all the Spanish Masses. The English Masses also had a special guest this past weekend – Bishop James Schuerman, who covered the English Masses while Fr. Wolfe was in the Dominican Republic.
- The Catholic Stewardship appeal for 2017 has ended with SJP II collecting \$29,255 of our \$50,500 goal. This was 57.93% of our goal. We had 183 donors out of a potential 1,640 for a participation rate of 11.16% (This was down from \$30,500 and 60.4% in 2016).

The 2018 CSA appeal begins February 3rd and 4th with the theme of “Decide to Lead” or “Decidanse A Servir.” I have asked the CSA office to provide 700 commitment cards and envelopes to be distributed at the Spanish Masses on the day that the video is shown. Rather than just pass a basket, this may help improve giving as it will allow us to track our participation rate better than a basket collection.

- The Finance Council has been doing some long range planning. Given the fact that we have been withdrawing our reserves in a big way over the last two years, we need to take stock not only of our regular bills and giving patterns but of the upcoming needs of our 17 buildings over the next few years. We already have had two repairs done this season to the SJK Church boiler and have been warned that they are “welding on welds” at this point and will not guarantee the latest repairs will last the season. As this planning progresses, we will have to include the Pastoral Council in the short and long range planning.
- Thank you to all for your prayers and support throughout the Christmas season. And especially for your patience with the virus that stuck with me from the 4th Sunday of Advent through Epiphany. Having the priest cough through Mass cannot be fun!
- We were prayed for by Deacon Aaron Laskiewicz at the tomb of St. John Paull II. Deacon Aaron is in Rome right now. A photo was shown to all council members.

Associate Pastor’s Report: Fr. Mike Wolfe

- Guadalupe and Posadas
 - a. Successful, I think, bilingual rosary. Intend to keep next year.
 - b. Guadalupe turnout – had booklets, too.
 - i. How to promote for English speakers next year? Posadas
 - c. Religious Ed posada had a lot of participation. Possibility to moving to SA for next year, to avoid overlap with the 10:30 English Mass?
- Spanish Christmas Masses
 - a. Will probably remove the 8:30 a.m. Spanish Mass at SH. Only 21 came to Mass and that included the priest, server, lector and musician.
 - b. Christmas Eve is the very big Mass. Ideas?
- Masses for New Years
 - a. If I were to do it again, I would have left the Spanish Mass on 12/31. Only 75 came to Mass on 1-1-2018 for the 11:30 a.m. Spanish Mass at SA.
- With All Your Heart
 - a. This quarter is “to Serve” – January – March, 2018
- Spanish Classes at SHSST
 - a. I start teaching Advanced Spanish classes next week! Tuesday and Friday afternoons for one hour and fifteen minutes.
- Seminary Dinner
 - a. I attended the seminary dinner on Thursday, December 28th and brought 4 youth from SJP II whom I thought would be interested in the priesthood.

Schools Report: Beth Eichman

- Beth gave the reports from Julie Robinson, principal at Holy Wisdom Academy and Dan Jorgensen, principal at St. John Kanty.

School Report: Julie Robinson, Principal at Holy Wisdom Academy

- **HWA Current Enrollment: 247 (we are up 10 students from November!!)**

Plans for Catholic School’s week 2018:

- We kick-off Catholic School’s week this year with a Family Fun Night on Friday, January 26th, at the West campus. Many fun filled activities will take place.
- At Masses over that weekend, students and staff will read testimonials to the parish.

- The National theme this year is Catholic School’s Week: Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed.
- The first four days of that week will focus on each one of these themes. Events throughout the day will also focus on the themes.
- Our School theme for the week will be **“At HWA we are everyday saints!”**.
Throughout the week we will have daily writing samples to address this. Students will choose a saint to research **and write** or draw about, look up their “Birthday Saint” to write about, write about a current saint (someone in our community who is making a difference) and “How can you be an everyday saint?” Daily announcements throughout the week will also focus on saints.
- Our service recipients will be the veterans, especially those at the VA Hospital. Money, gifts and blankets will be donated.
- Days will also be set aside for Student, Staff, and Volunteer Appreciation.
- Special dress days will also be designated.
- The final day will be a competitive day where the staff will vs. the students at each site. At East it will be a soccer match and at West, Volleyball.

Recruitment for the 2018-19 School Year

- I am currently creating a survey to distribute to school families. The focus will be on “How to best retain and keep our current students.” I believe this is our biggest issue. I would like to put my primary focus on keeping the students we have here. Too often we are losing our students. This year we started with 235 students, which was a big drop from the end of last year. However, currently we have picked up 12 several students. Some of this growth came from those who left and then decided to return. That tells me that we are doing things right and parents realize we have a good thing going here.
- We are in the process of offering extracurricular activities/clubs for students to participate in after school. I believe most families will partake in these opportunities.
- I believe most parents want a safe and loving environment for their children. Their Catholic faith is also important to them. Our school offers all of these.
- I also believe that word of mouth is our strongest form of advertisement. When we ask new families how they heard about us, the majority of the time it is from a current school family.
- I also want to make sure that we always have the funds available to offer academic support to our most struggling students. This is key to not only student academic proficiency but providing these services also enables our students the best opportunity for future success.

School Report: Dan Jorgensen, Principal at St. John Kanty School

- We had a very successful Christmas Music Program orchestrated by our very talented new music teacher Julie Maurer. Parents were very appreciative of the concert and how well prepared the students were to sing. For the month of December we had a school wide program goal called “Caught being Good,” students were caught in an act of kindness, the goal was 200 acts of kindness and we ended up with 222. The program ran from December 1st thru our half day before break on December 22nd. The students (school) will be rewarded with a popcorn slash movie day during Catholic Schools Week. Throughout the year we still handout slips to students who are “Caught being Good” by teachers or staff. This ranges from holding doors without asking, greeting faculty first and helping others without being asked. Any teacher or staff member can catch any student being good and fills out the form and turns it in to the office. The student is rewarded with a dress down pass or for the younger students, they are able to choose from a prize box. We really wanted to reward positive behavior this year after 4 years of our new discipline policy (which has significantly cut down on misbehavior).
- With the changes due to budget cuts, we had Julie K. take over the Art program where she is right at home. The teachers stay with their class during the Art time and we were able to give everyone an extra Art class every other week as well.
- Our focus for the spring is to recruit the neighborhood to bring our enrollment up to what our numbers were just 2 or 3 years ago. We are creating a brochure that will be distributed in the neighborhood by our 8th grade as part of their service requirement. The brochure will include the highlights of our great school, mission statement,

address, programs offered, picture of the school, school hours, general info, logo and our affiliation with St. John Paul II Parish. I will be sure to have a copy sent to Parish Council when it is ready. We are working on it in January to handout during the month of February. Also, in either April or May, we will have our middle school students in Art create custom cards with art work and some of their favorite things about the school and parish to hand out in the neighborhood before the end of the year. This card will include basic school info, hours, number, address and that we are part of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program. We are also planning on making custom SJK button magnets to hand out with the cards as a gift from the school with our logo, phone number and address.

- I returned from my colon resection surgery yesterday Monday January 8th. I am in good health, pain free for the first time in a long time. I still have to have a reversal surgery, hopefully as soon as the middle to end of February, however this surgery will be a lot less invasive and a much shorter recovery time hopefully than the last one. My goal is to be completely healthy and past the surgeries before Easter Vacation and ready to finish the school year on a strong note.

Break:

Finance Council Report: Chris Gramling

- With the boiler situation at SJK Church (see Fr. Mike's report above), the cost of a new boiler is estimated at \$100,000.00.
- We will be receiving \$74,000 from the Archdiocesan Trust accounts at U.S. Bank around January 22, 2018. This money was set aside by then Archbishop Dolan during the bankruptcy scandal.
- The school budgets are good.
- They are doing a good job of procuring expenses at the schools.
- We have and estimated \$32,000 in parish revenue.

Committee Reports:

Lifelong Faith Formation:

- See Roy Salinas's Report above.

Human Concerns: Dean Pluskota

- We had no meeting in January. We will meet next month.

Prayer and Worship: Herman Guzman

- We just met tonight. The minutes of our November 21, 2017 meeting were approved tonight. Copies will be in our February Council packets.
- Our next meeting will be February, Tuesday, February 20, 2018.

With All Your Heart: Fr. Michael Wolfe

- See Fr. Wolfe's Report above.

New Business:

- Anita asked what the attendance has been at the 6:30 p.m. Spanish Mass at SA on Wednesdays and Fr. Wolfe replied 30, 50, 70 and as high as 90 people. Very successful.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. with a closing prayer (the "Our Father") said by all. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Office, meeting room #2.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anita L. Wucherer, Parish Pastoral Council Secretary