Parish Pastoral Council Minutes – January 15, 2019

Present Council Members: Father Tony VanderLoop, Renee Berens, Carl Brakob, Dean Flicker, Dick Frie, Tim Pauly, Lanette Aitchison, Geoff Johnson, Paul Dehmer, Donny Lill and Carol Goodwin.

Members Absent: Mike Moran

Parish Trustees: Jan Zaruba and Les Wilmot

Meeting called to order by Renee at 7:20 PM

1. Opening Prayer led by Paul.
2. Approve Minutes 12/18 Meeting – approved by Dick, seconded by Donny.
3. New Business:
   1. Parish Priorities – Dean
      1. Dean handed out a form with four questions that he asked members to read, consider and write in a few thoughts about how to address these priorities. This item generated a great deal of conversation. Question #2 – Why are we not keeping the Parishioners that are coming to us? Dick suggested we contact those who have left to ask them directly “why?” Response was “how can we identify those who have left, do they let the office know to mark then “moved” or something else? Dick thought most of them know someone who left. How can we address the concerns that made them leave?
      2. How do we engage young families? Someone suggested more family focused events. Faith

Filled Family nights are really not focusing on the family when they separate the children and the parents.

* + 1. Father stated that we registered 37 new families this last year, 129 members total. He sent Christmas cards to them all. Question asked, “Do we call them?” Marg Mass is the new member coordinator and she has a team that does a follow-up call to them all, sometimes with contact, most times not. The conversation went on at great length and members were asked to continue thinking about ways to improve our methods and this issue would be on the agenda again next month. One member suggested we need to move forward and not continue to talk. Someone suggested outside activities, such as bowling and softball leagues, cribbage tournaments and/or Bunko nights where the whole family could participate.
  1. Crucifix Update – The team working on the project has reached an impasse with regard to the final details. For example – how to affix the corpus to the cross. Father has asked an outside designer to come up with a computer-aided design (CAD) to better be able to explain to the parish the final plans for the new crucifix. The corpus will not be ordered until there are funds to pay for it. The cost will not come out of the parish budget.
  2. Changing Mass Times – Father is considering changing the current Tuesday evening Mass to Tuesday morning. This would give Holy Spirit Academy another daily Mass and allow Tuesday evening meetings to be earlier, getting members home before 9PM. Father may wait until Fall to make the change, working with the Academy schedule.
  3. Lay Advisory Board Member – Father reminded everyone that he has to present the name of a member of the Council to the Archdiocese for their Lay Advisory Board (LAB). After name is submitted, the representative will be invited to a regional meeting to gather with other members of the deanery to elect one individual and an alternate to represent our deanery on the LAB. Dean Flicker agreed to be that representative.

1. Liaison Reports –Renee had sent reports to members and now asked for comments and/or additions.

Father asked Donny, as Grand Knight of the council, if he had any reports regarding the work of the Knights. Donny was encouraging members to attend the Annual Sweetheart Dinner Dance that does bring in non-knights and their wives. The event is well attended and well received. Donny said this is an aging council and he is working to encourage younger parishioners to become members. They plan to host more family activities and events, other opportunities to gather.

* + 1. Admin & Building Maintenance – Dick reported that he had spoken with Dan and the doors were on schedule. The doors should be open and working by the weekend.

He also handed out an article given to him from someone in the St. Cloud Diocese regarding “why young adults are leaving the church.”

* + 1. Faith Formation and Evangelization – Renee reported that she has been working with Lani and Dan updating the Ministries and their description.
    2. Sacraments & Worship – Carol reported that the Adoration Team is working on updating the sub list for adoration. Someone suggested that all Adorers be provided with copies of the sub list to have at home, even though lists are available at the Adoration Sign-In counter.
    3. Communication & Parish Life – Dean reported that there is a great deal of advertisement going out regarding the Matt Fradd event on February 12-13. Flyers are being sent to local parishes and Father Tony will be giving a talk on Relevant Radio.

1. Open Forum –
   1. Dick said that he had several calls from parishioners asking him to pass on to Father how much they enjoyed his “homily without notes” last weekend. They felt he was making eye contact directly with them.
   2. Father asked if we would be having more coffee and donut events in the Gathering Space. He really likes the interaction with parishioners that happens at those events. Dean said he had received some negative comments and wasn’t sure there would be enough volunteers to make it happen. Father would like to try again soon.
   3. There was a suggestion that when Father asks the parish to kneel for the St. Michael prayer that he tell people about the cards in the pews. Some people near him did not know about the pew cards and by the time they found them the prayer was over.
2. Next meeting: February 19, 2019
3. Closing prayer led by Renee.
4. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Holmes, Secretary