

Christ Our Light Pastoral Council

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting Tuesday, November 20, 2018

- Attendance:** Fr. Kevin Anderson, Chad Ruzek, Dwayne Van Wyhe, Nancy Thielke, Greg Schoen, John Koehler, Sally Weddel, Lila Spencer, Helen Sanford, Don Schleper
- Not able to attend: Mark Barder
Visitors: Tammy Creasy, Paul Crawford
- Opening prayer:** Dwayne Van Wyhe
- October Minutes:** Approved with no changes
- Financial Update:** Fr. Kevin explained that it was proposed by a staff member to change the Parish Payout Raffle from the current date of December 28th to the spring with a proposal date of April 15th, 2019. The feeling is that there has been a lot of asks and moving the Parish Payout Raffle to the spring will even out the raffles throughout the year. It is in the same fiscal year so it doesn't affect the budget for the year. All Pastoral Council members were in favor of the shift to the new date.
- Diocesan Planning:** Fr. Kevin handed out a 2019 Area Catholic Communities Plan from the Diocese of St. Cloud. The plan involves areas in the St. Cloud Diocese that would collaborate together as an effort to solve issues involved with the shortage of priests. The circle that Christ Our Light is in is called the Catholic Sherburne Parish. The proposal is that the Sherburne Parish circle would include Christ Our Light (Zimmerman and Princeton), Church of St. Andrew (Elk River), Mary of the Visitation (Becker and Big Lake), and St. Marcus (Clear Lake). The current priest staffing for the Sherburne Catholic circle is six priests. The proposed priests for the Sherburne circle is three. In the proposal are other items such as sharing various resources. A discussion ensued. Council members stated their concerns that first of all this proposal brings forth no real plans for what was to happen. Fr. Kevin stated that the planning was to happen in the separate circles in the Area Catholic Communities. It was also discussed that Christ Our Light is already a merged parish and so is Becker/Big Lake in our circle so perhaps the outer circles need to consider making changes by merging also. It was discussed at length that this proposal will jeopardize the future of the Capital Campaign at Christ Our Light. Christ Our Light is in the middle of a building campaign and parishioners have to be confident that we will continue to have the current Mass schedule and a priest here to preside and be present for the parish. If Christ Our Light would reduce the number of Masses and have to share resources at this time, the consensus of the Pastoral Council was that people would re-think their current pledges and the building program would lose its momentum. Fr. Kevin handed out a questionnaire and asked that all Pastoral Council members answer the questions and return them to him via email by

Monday, November 26th so that he can collate the answers and submit them to the diocese.

Updates:

Commercial Realtor: There is still no contract with a commercial realtor. Fr. Kevin, Rick Swartz and Paul Crawford will go to the Diocese in December to get clarification on selling prices for both church buildings.

Church Sales: The church buildings are for sale but not currently on the market until Christ Our Light secures a commercial realtor. Pastor Kevin Fox from the Methodist Church has expressed an interest as well as Doug Patnode of the EV Free Church.

**Rectory/
Family Promise** The Social Concerns Committee is putting together an information gathering group to explore using the church rectory (house on south campus) for a homeless family. It could be a family that did not find jobs and housing while they were in the Family Promise Church of the Week sponsored program. Fr. Kevin asked for Pastoral Council members to be a part of that information gathering group. Nancy Thielke and Sally Weddel volunteered.

Seminarian: Fr. Kevin was asked by the Diocese to sponsor a seminarian at Christ Our Light. No more information is available at this time.

Development Teams: Social Concerns reported that they have interest in using the rectory (South) for a homeless family. No further development reports. Sally stated that she is not getting development team minutes from the Liturgy Team or the Social Concerns Team. Paul Crawford said he would talk to the staff on those teams to ensure they were handed in timely.

Next Meeting: Tuesday December 18th, 2018. We will be doing Christmas giving and Pastoral Council will bring food for a pot luck. Bring food between 5:00 and 5:30. Mass is at 6:00. Activities and eating to follow.

Closing Prayer: Don Schleper