

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF

June 6, 2017

Present at the meeting:

Father Jack Sheaffer, pastor
Franco Dell'Olio, chair
Ray Fontaine, co-chair
Bill Brawner, deacon
Francesca Forrest, secretary
Theresa Murphy, Adult Education
Anna Donovan, Communications
Paula Moran, Communications
Mike Hurst, Family Life
John Rakouskas, Marriage Enrichment
Therese Rakouskas, Marriage Enrichment
Pat Skaza, Music Ministry
Jeanne Bryzcki, webminister
Terry Fontaine

1. Meeting called to order at approximately 7:00

2. Prayer

3. Minutes accepted, agenda accepted, brief calendar review through September.

4. Commission Reports

A. Adult Education

- St. Francis dinner club was a big success; good food and good spiritual content.
- Women of Grace will be using formed.org for their programming.

B. Communications

- Changes will be made regarding gathering space to keep the baptismal font free of clutter.
- The parish brochure is now in full-color pamphlet form; will be printed up professionally.

C. Family Life

- Mike Hurst is filling in for Shelly Garrow. He met with Gloria Fortunato about a support group for caregivers of people suffering from Alzheimer's/dementia. Weekend of June 10–11 there will be people after Mass to talk to those who are interested in participating.
- Mike would also like to expand the bereavement ministry.

D. Hospitality

- Franco reported that Theresa Renaud would like to put something in the bulletin asking for more people interested in joining the commission.

E. Marriage Enrichment

- The Teams of Our Lady have been using formed.org for meetings
- They are working on the pre-Cana planning.

F. New Evangelization

- Justine Holdsworth was not present, but Deacon Bill reported that the commission is working on a greeter ministry.
- Fr. Jack suggested that a greeting like “good morning” might be better, especially for long-time parishioners, than “welcome to St. Francis.”
- The outer doors are also being left open prior to Mass to be more welcoming.

G. Spiritual Life

- Therese Rakouskas reported that the commission hadn't met in the past month.
- Fr. Jack noted that the commission discussed possibly cutting back on or changing up the pamphlets available in the gathering space.

H. Vocations

- Carla Dell'Olio has been working on repackaging the Vocations Cross.
 - Instead of a loose-leaf binder, there will be a spiral-bound book.
 - The cross will be smaller.
 - There are new bags.
 - Everything will be more organized, neatened up.
- Saturday June 10, Deacon Barrent Pease will be ordained to the priesthood, at 11 a.m. in St. Michael's Cathedral.

5. New and Continuing Business

A. Parish Picnic on June 11

- Approximately 80 people have signed up; Franco will buy food for 100.

B. Bishop's report

- Pastoral council is commended for its optimism and hope for the future, for participating in the evangelization process, and its members are commended for "offering their time and talent for the betterment of the parish."
- Bishop recommends that the pastoral council focus more on visioning than on maintenance, reports, and meetings; that it do brainstorming and think outside the box, and that it "work on improving communication between its committees as well as its relationship with the Finance Council."

C. Fr. Jack's vision for changes when the Pastoral Council reconvenes

- Have a general committee of chairs that continues to discuss the "nuts and bolts" of parish activities. This committee will not be an advisory council and its discussions won't be decision making, but it will foster good communication and good working relationships between all the commissions.
- Have the pastoral council focus on prayer, visioning, and both leading and taking suggestions from the congregation.
- Fr. Jack is interested in bringing new voices into the pastoral council.
- People who are interested in participating in the new pastoral council should notify Fr. Jack so he can meet with them to talk this over.

6. Closing Prayer