

## **Pastoral Council Meeting Notes**

May 23, 2022

Secretary: Ben Kwedar

**Opening Prayer** - Amy Schneider

**Review and approve April meeting notes**

- **Meeting notes approved by unanimous consent**

**Father Joe updates**

- Fr. Joe first commented on Preschool graduation. Fr. Joe was impressed with Pre-K program. There are a lot of people involved in making the program successful and the kids are great.
- Fr. Joe was impressed with the graduation brunch and mass. The brunch was well planned, beautifully decorated, although only 13 out of 35 attended. Those that were there were appreciative
  - Amy asked if we asked for feedback of why they didn't show up.
  - Fr. Joe replied that Dawn didn't hear from many. Fr. Joe thinks it's from lack of interest.
- Fr. Joe updated on roof repairs and rectory landscaping.
  - Roof is holding, Father has asked two parishioners to coordinate ceiling panels and perhaps start a new ceiling under the finished roof. Volunteers are stepping up.
  - Fr. Joe will try to coordinate a clean up of the front during the summer, and the backyard during the fall. 2 volunteers will start this week.

**Group Discussion**

**GHS app advertising costs - Debbie Shawgo**

- Debbie shared that cost is \$700 and is for advertisement on Sports App and GHS website. Advertisement rolls through banner on bottom.
  - Gavin and Amy shared that they use the app often. Rick asks "How would we effectively utilize the GHS app?" Amy brings up that it would help market the church since other churches are in the Chatham Clarion often. Fr. Joe reminds council that SJW is updating facebook, looking into redesigning website. Amy shares that non-denominational churches are pouring more money into marketing campaigns. Rick brings up that we don't want to just catch eye, need a platform to show what we have to do.
- Discussion continues on how to market to Catholics who have stopped coming to Mass on a consistent basis.
  - Fr. Joe shares that one thing the diocese is doing this October is a large

Eucharistic gathering at the BOS center. It's purpose is to raise awareness of the Eucharist.

- Fr. Joe also shares an idea for having a Eucharistic procession for Corpus Christi on 6/19.
  - Potential route: Could walk through parking lot, by library, and even coordinate with Chatham PD.
  - Ideas
    - Could have singing throughout
    - Adoration after 10:30.
    - Could start small and have a procession that concluded in front of main doors and have benediction.
- Bringing back share the word will help get families in the pews, should be advertised on FB.
- Sister Judy shares that 7 new families joined in March, 7 new families joined in April, and so far 6 joined in May with two families pending.
- Fr. Joe shares best advertising is personal invitations. Fr. Joe tried to talk to families of graduates and tailored that message.
- Sister Judy asks about streaming if people have gotten into the habit of just live streaming. Fr. Joe- we need to reteach importance of the Eucharist.
- Rick mentioned that Katie from the Diocese brought up how we can add things on how to bolster things in the church. Get people involved not just during Sunday mass. We don't have a big pull to do bible studies, but we could give education to help people want to learn more. Need to focus on getting those here excited and involved.
  - Some ideas to get people involved would be craft fairs, family night, potlucks, etc.
  - Fr. Joe shares that St. Joseph the Worker is a very social parish with many activities, but like many churches we need to teach people to come back to Mass.
- Pat- Motioned to table GHS app for now so that we can talk about a new sign that could promote what is going on at the church. Motion is seconded.
  - Motioned to table GHS app, 8 ayes, 1 nay

### **Other social media apps to consider to reach out to college students, young professionals**

- Ben asks if we can get an Instagram page. Rick will reach out to Kathy about creating that and linking accounts.

### **Name badges update**

- Oval badge instead of rectangles that say Pastoral Council.
- Unanimous approval to purchase name tags for the Pastoral Council

### **Parish website contact update**

- Diocese does not help churches redesign anymore.
- Rick reached out to LPI. LPI does not have consultants, but they assisted when the initial website was created.
- Amy will set up a small group to work on designing a mockup home page

### **How do we help lapsed or inactive Catholics back home to church?**

During the last Pastoral council meeting the following ideas were suggested. Which ones are doable, what is the expected benefit, how will they be implemented and by whom?

- LED sign in front of Church or church parking lot
  - Fr. Joe shares that a new sign would be roughly 30-50k
  - Jennifer will contact the Village to see what zoning options are, after this info we will get price quotes
  - An option for some signage in the church would be to get the Four Pillars Banners set up
- New sign on Walnut
  - Determined that the sign is in good shape.
- Contact realtors and provide brochures to hotels
- Advertise during 4th of July Fireworks & Sweet Corn festival at South Park
  - Discussed the Fireworks at South Park will be on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, and will be a great advertising opportunity as people park in SJW parking lot. Youth could hand out glowsticks/popsicles for people in parking lot
  - Sister Judy will talk to Dawn about getting youth involved
- Potential Fall Activities (will be discussed during next month's meeting)
  - Fall Dinner circle
  - Shred event

Parishioner asked Rick if someone could attend a parish council meeting. Fr. Joe said these are open meetings. If there is anything we need to have in a closed session we can have a closed session.

**Closing Prayer** - Make A Difference prayer

Next meeting date: 6/27/22

Next opening prayer leader: Debbie Schwago