

Parish Pastoral Council meeting notes February 28, 2022

Attendees: Father Joe Malloy, Sister Judy Pfile, Katie Price, Gavin Davis, Rob Flesher, Rachel Green, Pat Kornfeld, Rick Kirchgesner, Ben Kwedar, Amy Schneider, Debbie Shawgo, Jennifer Trapani

Meeting recorder: Rick Kirchgesner

The meeting began with a prayer.

Debbie Shawgo was welcomed as a new member.

Katie Price, from the Diocese of Springfield Parish Vitality office, gave the following overview of what a Parish Pastoral Council is, discussed the strategic plan, offered resources and gave additional suggestions.

Parish Council Overview Our role as parish council members is to be the eyes, ears and voice of the parish as we assist Father Joe as parish leaders. We present the perspective of the parish by acting as liaisons between parish committees and parishioners. We also plan, prioritize, and evaluate goals and activities in our parish; however, we are not the ones who implement.

The parish pastoral council needs to be visible, so parishioners feel comfortable approaching us with ideas, concerns, or suggestions for improvement etc. As liaisons we need to always remember to keep parishioners informed.

Strategic Plan Amy gave a good overview of the current strategic plan and the process we took in preparing it. Katie offered to review and make some suggestions of how we might slowly begin implementing a part of it. Her suggestion was to start out simple, select a tactic and work with one committee to see if it was reasonable. Strategic plans are good, but they should be reviewed and adjusted every 6 months to weed out what is not working. Katie suggested focusing on working with a committee on implementing something before we spend much more time on the strategic plan. She also recommended reviewing it again to see if we have already completed some of the tactics. We don't always have to focus on large goals, just move the needle and work with people. We should collaborate with the parish staff and parish finance committee to get their input on the strategic plan and seek their help with implementing when needed.

Resources Katie's job is to be a resource to all parishes within the diocese, so she encouraged us to reach out to her for guidance whenever we need it. She is also good at identifying other diocesan resources that are subject matter experts. Current authorities on parish pastoral councils are Charles E Zech and Patrick Lencioi.

Charles E Zech is a respected speaker and writer about parish and finance councils and their purpose, function, and goal. He manages the Pastoralcouncils.com– website that focuses on current trends with parish councils.

Patrick Lencioni authors good leadership books. He is also featured in AmazingParish.org that he built with cofounder John Martin to uplift, improve and help parishes turn from maintenance to missionary communities. Katie brought up the concept of going from maintenance to missionary committees during her talk so this would be the place to investigate those ideas further.

Miscellaneous Suggestions and ideas

Each of us should do a short biography of 250 words or less and add a picture to put in the bulletin and info boards. Rick will have one ready before the March meeting. Please try to start working on yours soon.

Consider adding Parish Pastoral Council member to our name tags.

Our parish website is the front door for non parishioners. Consider reviewing our home page for marketing to non parishioners. Katie had a resource that could help with web design.

We have empty spaces on our advertisement portion of the bulletin. The publisher could help fill that in but better yet investigate using that space to advertise parish events.

Consider PayPal or Venmo for electronic giving. When Covid appropriate consider reinstating laminated giving cards and making pew cards and crayons available to young children again.

Parishes in general want to learn how to build and grow membership. The AmazingParish.org website might help with ideas for this. Katie also mentioned the importance of the welcoming ministry and stewardship ministries in this area.

Sometimes you should consider sunseting a ministry if interest has changed or a leader has led the group too long. New leaders come with new ideas which are healthy for the group. A ministry cannot be effective with a burnt-out leader. Katie recognized that it can be hard to get people to volunteer to be new leaders but thriving committees who are radically inviting and consistently inviting new members have better luck. Co-chairs provide for a natural progression as well.

Work with committees to plan to sunset members after three years so they are free to move to new groups or take a break.

The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of identifying the next chairperson to replace Mary Beth Paulek. Rick Kirchgessner accepted the position and the council approved him. Our March meeting was changed to Thursday March 31st at 5:30. The meeting closed with a prayer.