

Pastoral Council Minutes for August 27, 2019

Attendees: Debra Hintz, Rick Korpela, Pat Lehman, Bill Protz, Judy Dollhausen, Barbara Holt, Nicole Hartley, Nick Kwaw, Sue Niemi, Patrick O'Neil, Sue Wassenberg
Excused: Anisha D'Silva

Opening Prayer:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The opening prayer was lead by Debbie.

Approval of June 25, 2019 Minutes:

Rick moved to approve the Minutes and Nick seconded the motion. Corrections were made to the Council roster.

Comments from Parishioners Who Are Present:

No parishioners were present.

Planning for the Future update:

Communication/Marketing Committee Report

This committee had its first meeting and will meet again on Sept 10th. -They are looking at yard signs for parishioners to display for a set period. Another company may be providing an option for church signage. The committee is thinking about a minimal Google ad, for ex., with the Christmas Mass schedule. An ad like the recent one in the Brown Deer magazine will be repeated at Christmas time.

Bill produced a flyer after the June meeting and passed them around. The purpose of a marketing campaign is to retain customers and gain new ones. The flyer could be used as a bulletin insert; people could pass it along to neighbors, family members who have left the church, friends, at the Food Pantry; it could be mailed to former members or new families in area to follow up on the initial post card. The Welcome folder could contain the flyer as a visual promotion. It could be put on the Web site. We need to repeat the message. Bill did not feel there would be copyright infringement for the Christ graphics but he will check on that. Both sides of the flyer indicate diverse, joyful people. We need to point out the differences at St. Catherine. The flyer is not designed to replace anything but to support what already exists, helping to distinguish St. Catherine from other churches.

Another option the committee considered was a Facebook page which could use materials from the flyer Bill created. Pictures of recent events could be used as well. Debbie would like the logo on the flyer. Pat L. wondered if the app or a QR code linked to our website could be added to it as well.

The committee will talk about incorporating the flyer into the marketing plan.

Parishioner Response Summary

Bill cut down the pages from the written and online surveys to four. He'll try to cut it down to one by the next meeting following topics/themes of responses. Overall the feeling of positivity was very evident. Debbie feels we need to give the parish some feedback on the survey results beyond her comments in the bulletin, especially to present initiatives coming from the feedback. Rick encouraged giving that soon to keep it in the minds of parishioners. Pat L.

suggested attaching a PDF to the *Friday Notes*. Debbie would like to wait for the September meeting to consider how to give the feedback.

Sue N. asked if we'll continue to try working as a Tri-Parish. Debbie said that we need to continue to collaborate but will let Fr. Greg take the lead on a tri-parish council meeting as he is working on combining his two councils into one.

We need to set aside a significant amount of time at our next meeting to go over the summary, including projects to follow up on summary items.

What Can I Do? Pamphlet

The Committee's response to the pamphlet suggested that, in part, it would be "preaching to the choir". It would be about \$2 a piece for our size parish. Sue N suggested that the topics be presented in a column each month rather than passing out the pamphlet. The topics are common sense, for ex. smile! Bill feels there will be changes in the next five years based on how friendly people are in the vestibule, etc. It was agreed it is well written but for people who are not already engaged. Debbie indicated that people like the column highlighting parishioners so presenting this in a column might be a way to go or asking people to reflect on the topics. This could be a possible follow up to the survey. We have to help people realize that everyone can do something. Judy mentioned that the survey covered having younger families involved. Perhaps highlight what attracted them to St. Catherine in a column. Nicole had spoken with a mother of a family, encouraging her to be a server, an example to her younger daughter. Patrick mentioned Fr. Joe's homily about introducing ourselves to others at St. Catherine. Bill suggested splitting people up at the spaghetti dinner, seating A-D at on table. That type of opportunity is missing in church.

Committee Reports:

Bill plans to attend committee meetings as he can.

Finance's next meeting is Sept. 19th.

- the budget is done and submitted
- the fiscal year ended better than expected and a report will be sent to parishioners this fall
- in September, archdiocesan report needs to be submitted which determines our assessment
- two new exterior doors in the offices will be installed next week
- the new front doors may be done by November

Human Concerns' next meeting is Sept. 9th.

- Tri-Parish T-shirts are in and can be picked up this weekend
- there will be a flyer re: Seven Days of Service
- September 25th is Care Bundles night and Catholic Charities will distribute them; people are asked to register for helping
- Judy described the Walk and the Mill Road cleanup events, our two other 7 Days of Service activities

Prayer and Worship's next meeting is Sept. 10th.

Parish Director's Report:

Debbie handed out a spreadsheet from the archdiocese with statistics from 2004-2018. Look for things that were surprising or we have questions about. We'll discuss that at the next meeting.

Columbarium foundation needs to be poured in the next weeks. A month later the units can be installed. -Statues will be completed but are still in process.

Debbie started at Stritch July 1st on the parish director project. In 2004 there were 566 parish directors in the US. Today the number is 190. -Four women, four men (three are deacons) are currently serving as parish directors in the Milwaukee archdiocese.

Debbie asked what people thought the reaction would be to returning the labyrinth, which was a project of the parish's 150th anniversary, back to grass. It is not in good shape. It was suggested that we should go ahead and remove it.

St. Bernadette is now renting their school building to a Hmong school and a number of former Northwest Catholic students are now attending there. NWC's enrollment is down. They also suffered flooding in early August when the roof was being worked on. Not all rooms are ready, but they started school on schedule on Monday.

Archdiocesan/Milwaukee Church Security and Crisis Planning Guidelines

We had agreed at a previous meeting that a committee needs to be formed to discuss the issue rather than the Council. Debbie, Lorrie Maples, ushers, etc. should be part of a committee for coming up with a plan along with a few parishioners who are police and/or military. The suggestions need to fit with St. Catherine's setup.

What are you hearing?

Sue N mentioned that people had approached her about liturgy issues, such as the sound system and music and she'll address it at the Prayer and Worship Committee.

After the closing prayer, the meeting ended at 8:08 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24th at 6:30 p.m. with Northwest Catholic and Seton people in attendance.

Submitted by Barbara Holt