

**St. Gregory the Great Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 10, 2017**

PRESENT: Tricia Boyle, Marge Casey, Marge Fischer, Randy Green, Michelle Konkel, Tom Molinski, Patti Penkalski, Yolande Lasky, Barb Wilk, Barb Freuck and Amy Schlegel.

Meeting started at 7:15 P.M.

Opening Prayer: Stewardship Prayer.

Minutes of the November 8, 2016 Council meeting accepted and approved.

**Fr. Tom's Time:** (Fr. Tom absent)

2017 Parish Councils Congress at Cousins Center, Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 9:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. with Lunch. Fr. Tom would like 2-3 people to attend from St. Greg's Parish Council. Marge Casey said she will attend. Let Patti Penkalski know if you can attend within the next week.

**Administrative Update:** Patti Penkalski  
Nothing to report at this time.

Regarding the 2016 Archdiocese of Milwaukee Convocation presentation on October 22, 2016: Under #3 in Section F. (Remarks by Randy Richard, New Chair of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council): The last part will be done on parish level; will come with monthly letter. Stewardship Commission: spirituality; encourage members to attend.

Questions for Discussion (as noted in Section G of the 2016 Convocation on October 22, 2016):

- Olive-wood crosses initiative
- Working with youth in high school level (even those already confirmed)
- Struggle with parish cemetery guidelines
- Post-high school young adults who do not attend colleges or universities
- Cooperation between 3-5 parishes for our young adults

- Someone to address teenagers, young adults and post school within the parish

**(Examples)** 10:00 A.M. Christmas Day Mass – Two younger parishioners cantored. It was wonderful having them back doing service for the parish. Commitment is difficult for young people. High schoolers attending Catholic high schools need to know that service hours can be done on the parish level as well as through the high school programs.

At announcement time, thank the young people for coming back to their parish and offering their talents. Make contact with the local parochial high school and let them know that there are parish opportunities for their students' stewardship.

Opportunities when new parents are having children baptized and perhaps have them participate more fully as active parishioners.

Perhaps a database with information for high schoolers about post-high schoolers so that they can connect with each other. Maybe our school-age students could invite the post-high schoolers to come to Mass.

Perhaps an alumni Mass with breakfast back in the parish. Perhaps using a Facebook page: Where are they now? Word of mouth?

Get the young people to come back and at least visit their parish/school.

Have a legacy booth at School Open House to encourage people to return to the parish. Common interest might be the catalyst for encouraging student to return home and return to the parish life. It would be a chance to reminisce -- maybe remember a special teacher (like Ms. Sherman, the art teacher).

### **Commission Reports**

**Worship:** Barb Freuck

The Arts & Environment Committee has taken care of removing the Christmas decorations from the church proper and the front of the church on the Oklahoma Avenue Side. There are some poinsettias still on the altar for our winter decoration.

Church looked nice for Christmas. There were some minor changes to the decorations that the parishioners were used to seeing at the Christmas season

but everything looked good. I did receive a few comments from some of the parishioners who felt that the feeling was not as warm in the church as in past years. Some even commented that they missed the lit houses and the snow and little trees on the ledges in church. My answer to them was that we were just making a few changes this year and that the lit houses and the snow and little trees might come back again a year or so. I told them that I would bring their opinions and suggestions to the next Arts & Environment meeting when it is scheduled.

There still has been no date set for the Liturgy Commission meeting since Cindy Bremeier continues her recovery. In Cindy's absence, a number of Eucharistic ministers and lectors have stepped up to assist in making sure that all of the weekend Masses are covered with sufficient ministers and lectors. So far, so good. Hopefully, Cindy will be back with us soon. We are very thankful for the many parishioners who have made the effort to check in each Saturday and Sunday before the start of Mass to see if their services were needed.

**Formation:** Michelle Konkel

Religion classes continue; First Communion preparation continues and Confirmation preparation continues with Jo Therese covering for Cindy Bremeier.

**Human Concerns:** Barb Wilk

This month the IR/OR committee will have their **Care Cup Drive** that helps Repairers of the Breach. Donations of coffee, cups, and creamer/sugar help the warming stations for the homeless in Milwaukee during our Wisconsin winters.

Next month IR/OR will hold a bake sale and the proceeds will be used to create sunshine bags for our homebound and elderly parishioners. Those bags will be delivered Easter Week.

The SVDP Food Drive in November was very successful in filling our parish pantry. The SVDP parish organization needs people to be home visitors. They are down to 4 people making home visits.

**Finance:** Tom Molinski & Marge Casey

January - Stewardship letter will be going out to parishioners at the end of January. Commission meeting was held right before the Parish Council meeting tonight. It was noted that it will take about \$34,000 to repair the leaking roof over the K4 part of the school building.

**Pastoral Care:** Tricia Boyle

An upcoming project that overlaps both Justice and Charity and Pastoral Care:

We will host a bake sale in February after all Masses that we will use the proceeds from to create “**Sunshine Bags**” for our homebound and elderly parishioners. The bags will contain items that will bring cheer and prayers to the elders. Those will be delivered the week right after Easter.

**Community:** Randy Green

The calendar raffle was a success. We received back about 675 entries. Look for the first list of winners in this upcoming weekend’s bulletin.

**School:** Yolande Lasky

The November meeting was rescheduled and there were a minimum number of members available to conduct business. The following items were introduced and held over to the January meeting:

- Commission By-Laws
- Commission Self-Evaluation

Updates were provided in the following areas:

- Enrollment is at 266 students. Demographic information was given
- Budget: The status of the current budget was reviewed with no major concerns. Since the number of students goes beyond the budgeted number, an additional classroom aide is being considered.
- Comprehensive Strategic Plan: The plan continues to be in progress

- Testing: The MAP tests will take place in January. Students in grades 3-8 will take the state Forward Exam in spring
- State Report Card: The report has been published. There is little data available this year. The Dept. of Public Instruction assessed the school at the 'Meets Expectation' level
- Accreditation Statuses: The self-study continues. A member of the Accreditation Team will meet with members of the Pastoral Council as information regarding this governing body becomes necessary.

#### General information:

- Catholic Schools Week is the week of January 29, 2017. School Open House is Tuesday, January 31, 2017 from 4:30 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Book Fair is Saturday, January 28th and Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> after Masses
- A Spanish translator is providing services with the School Newsletter and Conferences.
- Amy Schlegel will attend the January Pastoral Council Meeting to provide information on the new intercom system and the school's student technology programs

Amy Schlegel attended tonight's meeting to give the Pastoral Council information about what is going on in the school building. At the end of October a new intercom system was put in with more capability than the old system that the school had. All school call can be made from any telephone not just the school office. Rooms can be zoned for individual contact with certain rooms so that calls do not have to go out to all classrooms all the time.

School bell is now an annoying sound but functioning.

The tech plan is in place for 2016-2019:

- 90 laptops throughout the school
- 30 working iPads
- 15 desktops

- Computer stations for K4-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- Every classroom has smartboards
- Diagnostic testing is being done on computers
- Grade 3-8 testing is done on computers
- Piloting reading skills through programming on individual basis

Tech services are being provided through a company called ETA and also assisting is a school parent that come to the school tech meetings.

Thanks to Amy Schlegel for attending the Pastoral Council Meeting and bringing the council members up to speed on the high tech programming that our students are getting at St. Greg's.

**Stewardship**: Mike Esser (absent)

The next Stewardship meeting will be January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Report will be given next month.

**Closing Notes**:

**Regional Workshop** – Everyday Spirituality on February 8, 2017 at The Cousins Center, Milwaukee from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Yolande Lasky will attend this meeting as a representative for St. Gregory the Great Pastoral Council.

**Hospitality Sundays**: January 15, 2017 assisted by Education representatives

February 19, 2017 assisted by Stewardship representatives

**February Prayer**: Barb Wilk

**Next Meeting**: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 7P.M. in the Great Room.

Closing Prayer: Randy Green

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Barb Freuck, Secretary  
1-21-2017 St. Greg's Parish Council Minutes (Meeting 1-10-2017)