

## Pastoral Council Minutes September 13, 2022

Members Present: Dave Jandris (At Large), Mark Bularzik (Vice-Chairperson - At Large), Don Cavalli (At Large), Sandy Schuller (Finance Commission), Michelle Greco (Chairperson - At Large), Chris Hannigan-Wiehn (Worship Commission), Jonah Tran (Education - Youth), Jackie Aldrich (At Large), Fr. Ed Howe, CR (parochial Vicar), Fr. Norbert Raszeja, CR (Pastor), and Sue Gosewehr (Recorder)

Guests: Clem Campbell, Jerry Munley, Kathy Nartnick, Marilyn Ristic, Marlene Clark

Members Not Present: Mike Hillebrand (At Large), Beth Cartner (Education Commission – Religious Education), Nancy Balogh (Education Commission – School), as well as a Representative from Education (Religious Formation) and Service/Outreach Commission

**The meeting opened with prayer thanks to Michelle G**

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **Parish Picnic**

- Thanks for all of your help
- Report provided – on shared drive
- Knights of Columbus donated \$200
- Suggestions for next year:
  - 2 areas selling tickets
  - More sweet wine
  - Staging area for music closer to seating
  - Bingo had lower participation this year
  - Tents need to be secured – borrowed from people
  - Kudos to Sue, John, Erich as well as Knights and spouses who participated
  - Bag games – best participation ever – good location
  - Need more shade – more tents?
  - Hot dogs – ordered from Doggie Diner – too many ordered, many given away
  - Youth Ministry had pizzas delivered
  - Stick to plan, avoid last minute changes – great first attempt on site!
  - Volunteers – 16 on sheet provided – 11 signed in
  - Big tubs missing from basement
  - Great location for food
  - Freezer perfect for ice cream
  - Communication
    - Video preview
    - Not as many weekends for active handout of flier – 2x
    - Use sign-up genius – digital sign-up
    - Facebook
    - Pulpit announcement for fliers in breezeway
    - Shaded area for seating
    - Kids games outside next year?
  - Michelle – needs list of volunteers
    - Huge thank you to all involved

**Minutes of the April 12, 2022 Meeting were approved as written (Mark B-1st, Don C-2nd)**

**Commission Highlights – Please upload to drive before meeting – provide alternates to attend meeting if representative is not able to attend**

- Worship Commission – Chris H-W – Report available on Drive
  - Lay Liturgical Ministries – Jerry Munley
    - Clem & Mary Campbell, Jerry Munley, & Chris Hannigan-Wiehn
    - Goal-restart, reinvigorate liturgical ministries
    - Contact sheets completed and collected, and training after Masses
    - Commissioning at all Masses next weekend
    - Altar Server training after Mass – all ages invited – Jonah will talk to Jennifer (instrumentalists wanted as well)
    - Deacons have not been available to assist at Masses recently
- Religious Formation – School – Nancy B – Not present – Report available on Drive
- Religious Formation – Youth Ministry – Jonah T
  - Go Mad – good service experience
  - Fall Retreat at Our Lady of the Angels Retreat Center
  - Mission Trip to Pennsylvania
  - Steubenville Conference in July
  - Car washes went very well – tip jar suggested
  - S.T.O.R.M. began with 40 teens participating
  - Fall Outing to Heaps Farm in Minooka
  - Next summer:
    - Jerusalem Farm
    - World Youth Day
    - Mission Trip to Kansas City
- Religious Formation – RE – Beth Cartner – First night of Religious Education – no report
- Administration/Finance – Sandy Schuller
  - New Finance Council – 7 people – meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month
  - 2022/2023 budget approved – used last years’ projections
  - Review of pre/post covid budgets
  - Parking lot project being reviewed/accepting bids
  - Audit by Diocese – report received and will be reviewed
  - Need: participation of parishioners in all areas of parish life
- Deanery Report – new representative needed
  - Bi-monthly/quarterly meetings – next meeting: Thursday, October 13
  - Jackie A volunteered to be rep from St. Scholastica Parish Pastoral Council

**Discussion regarding discernment of President/Vice President for 2022/2023**

- Suggested discernment could take place in January or February – would allow incoming officers to shadow for a few months
- Michelle G & Mark B will remain in positions for the fiscal year

**Council Focus – Provided on agenda**

- Parish Census Status – Sue
  - Marisa provided handout regarding census update project

- Fr. Ed – decline in attendance disappointing – attending Mass not a priority – not good attitude of going to church
- Come up with new ways to get people to attend Mass – become engaged
  - school/religious education masses on a Sunday
  - focus groups?
  - Reach out to those who are not here
  - People struggle wit faith in school & home
  - Adult faith groups
  - Family involvement in religious education
- Diocese assessing status of parishes – church boundaries not as strong
- Members made inactive if envelopes not used
  - Diocese charges assessment by number of families registered – more accurate numbers
  - Concern: families attending mass but not tithing or using envelopes being made inactive
  - Census update: need to get e-mails – council members make phone calls?
  - Contact Marisa regarding next steps
- Communication/Awareness
  - Ministry Fair?
  - Highlight groups/ministries at Mass
    - Speak 5 minutes before mass begins
    - Every week – people will tune out – too long
    - Groups pick a Sunday – be greeters, hand out books
    - Highlight one ministry per month
    - Hospitality Sunday/Donut Sunday
- Priesthood Sunday – September 24 & 25
  - Index cards for thoughts and prayers
  - Donuts and Coffee? – Kathy N will contact representative from St. Elizabeth Seton to ask about their procedure/contacts
  - Send e-mail to parishioners? – Lisa or Jean
  - Facebook – Mark Hodges
  - Council reps at Mass:
    - 4:30 pm – Chris H-W & Sandy S
    - 8 am – Michelle G & Dave J
    - 10 am – Don C
    - 12 noon – Jackie A
- Calendar of Events discussed
  - Parish Fundraiser – needs to be planned
  - Ministry Fair?
  - Volunteer Appreciation?
  - Priesthood Sunday – see previous notes
  - Discernment – April
  - Parish Picnic – August – need chairperson(s)

Fr. Norbert's comments

- Hospitality Sunday
  - Coffee and Donuts
  - One table for group
- Number of Parishioners
  - Catholics for use: sponsor, baptism, wedding
  - Self-centered until disaster happens
  - People from St. Dominic's introduce themselves at Mass
- Would like to see active celebration for volunteers
- Parish picnic enjoyable
- Funerals have slowed down
- How can Pastoral Council assist in outreach to bring people back to mass/renew interest in attending
  - No simple answer
  - All School Mass – ask kids about attending Sunday Mass
  - Outreach: invite neighbors, friends, relatives to attend Mass
- Agenda Items for next meeting: Discernment results on agenda for next meeting
  - Please contact Fr. Norbert or Michelle G to add items to next month's agenda

The meeting closed with Prayer thanks to Sandy S

Opening Prayer – Mark B

Closing Prayer – Jackie A

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 11 at 7 pm in Room 112

**Please upload written reports into the shared drive, monthly meeting as soon as possible**