

**Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2016**

Deacon John's homily compared Mother Teresa to our scripture reference to a mustard seed. In her vocation, she struggled with spiritual warfare: being cloistered yet yearning to reach out to the needy. When discouragement shadowed her vision, she trusted in Our Lord. We, attending Mass, were applauded for similarly growing the Church by sharing our time and talents.

(Following the chicken dinner) Cindy R. called the large group to order. She thanked Joni and Bonnie for kitchen duty.

Parish Council Meeting

In attendance: Andrea, Bill, Ellen, Fred, Jane Marie, Jeanne, Joan, Mary, and Terry

Terry opened our PPC meeting in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide us in ways to reach out to neighbors who've either fallen away from the church or haven't found a faith community.

Terry thanked Denise for preparing hand-outs to distribute. He asked those who haven't already done so, to send Juliette the contact & introductory info she requested a month ago.

Each member briefly shared a personal & spiritual best.

PPC accepted and approved the September 27, 2016 meeting minutes.

Blue Sky Initiative

Jane Marie elaborated on the Blue Sky spread sheet. In June, the committee brainstormed and listed goals, in a 1-5 year plan. In July they prioritized the list & assigned each goal to a specific commission. In August they reviewed the list/recommendations. Highlights included:

- 812 hymnals have been ordered to arrive for Advent. It is not too late to purchase one in 'honor of' someone living or in 'remembrance of' someone deceased. She asked Susan if hymnals could be in large print.
- More staff and commission members will speak from pulpit to increase face recognition and elevate awareness of various parish-wide goals.
- Father has requested St. Patrick's to be a teaching parish starting in 2017.
- Until a new driveway arrangement or some type of overhead shelter is in place, parishioners will be encouraged to escort along the sidewalk/ assist any elderly or challenged person entering for Mass. A supply of oversized golf umbrellas handy for rain/snow will be sourced.
- To enhance parish communication, more personal phone calls will be made regarding various parish initiatives (e.g. Fall Festival).
- Shout outs from the pulpit could be references to local news, community recognitions.
- In the ongoing effort to update the parish census, 330 letters were sent to those who received tickets but did not participate in the Fall Festival raffle (approx. 10% replied).

Special Events:

Inver Grove Heights Days 2017: PPC to consider staffing a booth during this event in addition to participation in the parade (PPC to engage in further discussion at a later date).

Youth Mass: this initiative needs time to solidify, a communication plan created, schedule identified and expectations articulated.

Guest Speaker: a recommendation was made to have a guest speaker who could share best practices and strategies in reaching out to and engaging millennials . PPC will reach out to personal networks to identify slate of potential speakers.

Commendations were extended to individuals who made the Ministry Fair a success. Most notable was Fred's stellar job creating the poster board for the PPC. Suggestions following event include the effectiveness of the event over personal invitation to prospective commission members.

PPC & Holiday Mass Hospitality: PPC members are strongly encouraged to sign up to provide Hospitality/Greeter support during the holiday season as schedules permit. This is an area of great need at this time of year. Also, we are reminded of the generous contributions by our fellow parishioners in making our parish so welcoming.

Donut Sunday: PPC will host Donut Sunday on November 27th. Sign up will be coordinated prior to or during the November 22nd.