

**Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2017**

Fred Hemmer provided our opening prayer.

Minutes for the October 24 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Terry thanked all who served at donut Sunday, Thanksgiving weekend.

The bulk of the meeting was spent reviewing Father Bob's notes/highlights from "22 steps to a great Catholic Parish"

Chapter 3 poses the overall challenge: first comes unconditional welcoming, next broad evangelization then, ultimately, conversion.

Demetri reminds us our welcome must be extended to many levels from grandparents to millennials.

Fred observed, in his childhood, how one church employed aggressive busing: driving around the neighborhood; loading up the children & providing free round-trip shuttle service to Sunday school.

So, how do we get folks to attend Mass?

Re: our current hospitality, Joan's observation is, it's hard to slip through St. Pat's doors & be missed by a greeter.

Taking hospitality deeper, Joan posed more aggressive inviting per chapter 7 'Invite, invite, Invite.' She suggested email notes be sent from the parish, per a stock script, to invite relatives to our annual Mass of Remembrance. She recommended request forms for Masses being offered (year 'round) include email addresses of extended family who might attend with a nudge from our Pastor or the parish staff. Father said it's more effective and efficient when family assumes that responsibility of notifying kin of Mass offerings. Joan assured us that St. Kate's frequently & successfully uses a similar personalized email invitation process. Father anticipated this process would be a logistical nightmare tying up staff resources.

Upon further discussion, Joan urged resistance to a mindset of 'manpower-shortage' with persistent follow through and creative application of suggestions. Mention of our military and police/firefighters, eg, is now customary and simply woven into the process of writing weekly prayers of petition. It was suggested that, similarly, the Mass intention be included in the prayers of petitions-ie the name of the individual be announced: "For Jack Black for whom this Mass is offered, we pray to the Lord."

Subsequent chapters pose possible avenues to promote parish life.

Chapter 10 questions available space for displaying church news: photos of Guatemala trips; grandparent ministry prayer cards, FF learner's art work etc. similar to local Walmart's' hanging public's art on their wall of-fame.

Chapter 14 asks if flyers with church info are distributed in the community. Do local hotels have current listings of church services? Per Jan's experience, this info might be behind a counter in a drawer, not readily displayed.

Extended support for greeting at holiday Masses will be discussed at next our meeting.