

**Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2016**

The devotional Father referenced in his homily called us, especially this week, to be receptive in our meditations. Father wore Christmas (candy-cane striped) socks under his sandals to subtly flaunt his trek from rectory to chapel which is entirely indoors. Father treated us all to Tinucci's chicken dinner then shared:

- 1. Sign up is ongoing for both Christmas & New Year's weekend Masses*
- 2. Circle of Friends provided the bench cushions*

Parish Council Meeting

In attendance: Bill, Jeanne, Mary, Andrea, Ellen, Jane Marie

Andrea gave magnetic calendars, complete with recipes.

Juliette opened with a prayer which reminded us to be mindful of others, striving to put their needs ahead of our own.

Each member shared personal and faith bests.

PPC accepted and approved the November 22, 2016 meeting minutes.

Father Bob's reported:

- The 2nd collection on December 18th for the retired clergy brought in \$4500 with indications of more to trickle in. He wonders if his deal (*short homily*) was catalyst to such generosity. This ranks among the several top totals for 2nd collections.
- The Giving Tree yielded more gifts than any year before, organizations receiving donations appeared ecstatic.
- The summer youth mission trip is full, 10 students & 5 chaperones.
- Three weeks ago, one new IGH resident reported to Father, it was the postcard mailed to him that drew him to our parish. Approximately 25-30 per month are mailed to move-ins in 55076 area & a portion of 55077. The goal would be that new neighbors in a new development might mention to one another their satisfaction in finding a new church.
- Father stated ministries for Christmas Masses are virtually all filled.

Special Events:

PPC is responsible for treats at the January 24th Commissions Meeting meal. Ellen eagerly stepped forward to take the lead on this effort.

Blue Sky Initiatives

Parish Communications

Facilitator: Jane Marie

Committee Members: Andrea, Mary and Ellen

Purpose: develop a speakers calendar promoting the visibility of staff and commission members by speaking briefly from the pulpit (e.g. reading the announcements before Mass dismissal) or perhaps highlighted in print with a photo in the bulletin

Increased Participation

Facilitator: Joan R

Committee Members: Jeanne

Purpose: Identify ways to increase parishioner participation with a focus on millennials.

Mary reported attending a confirmation candidate meeting where the common complaints were: Mass isn't fun; the music isn't relevant. Andrea's millennial aged kin prefer less structured services at non-denominational 'mega' churches. Bill explained a theory that being Catholic requires more than simply attending an entertaining hour of lively music, & leaving feeling good. He and Jane Marie echoed that Eucharist is the core of our liturgies which are grounded in tradition not designed to be, primarily, entertaining. Jeanne suggests we ask folks why they aren't attending Mass, what they wish they'd get out of worship. She suspects institutional factors squelch our mass-appeal (pun intended.) Witnessing many female clergy at her worship experience on Easter in D.C. had a moving impact on her. Kayla shared her college-student brother's experience. Initially he avoided attending Mass, no one reached out to him, to invite or encourage him. Yet once he did go, he realized other classmates or sport team members were also attending Mass, thus he felt more connected. Jane Marie suggests reviewing the book "Rebuilt" for tips gleaned from successful non-traditional churches.

Community Engagement

Facilitator: Terry

Committee Members: TBD

Father thanked all who serve on the many commissions, and wished us a blessed Christmas!