

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

*Father Bob pointed out that our Mass was the last such celebration of ordinary time until June.
While our old testament reading stated a generous giver will be repaid 7 times, our new
testament reading upped the return to 100 fold!*

Father's large group updates:

March 9th, Catholics at the Capital

Our parish will absorb registration fee for any parishioners desiring to attend, plus carpooling to the River Center will be coordinated.

Schedule:

- 7 a.m. Registration
- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast and prayer
- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 9:00 a.m. Speakers
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12 p.m. Take bus to the capital to meet with our representatives
- ~4 p.m. Return home

March 19th, St. Pat's Luncheon

11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Luncheon and welcome new parishioners.

Please stop by& introduce yourself at the table designated for new members. *One or two volunteers from each commission will sign up to support this community building meal.*

April 28th, Family Fun Night

Bingo, dice game, beer tasting, ice cream making, clowning, movies, photo booth, vendor tables, Winter Carnival Royalty visit, bean bag toss, reading corner, face painting, arts n craft table are planned for this grand evening for the whole family.

Walking Tacos, hot dogs, popcorn, and possibly Jersey's sliders provided, mini donuts and beer available for additional cost. Early bird is \$20/family or \$25/family at the door.

Dimitri asked if any electronic games would be included, since they're appealing to kids (i.e. wii bowling tourney was suggested).

Parish Council meeting:

In attendance: Bill, Jeanne, Mary, Andrea, Ellen, Jane Marie, Joan, Demetri, Terry, Juliette, Kayla, and Father Bob

Bill opened in prayer on our behalf, singing an old folk hymn. *You could've heard a pin drop as council listened to a hauntingly touching melody and lyrics beckoning God's peace upon us.*

All shared their “bests”.

Special Events

Nomination Process Kick-Off

Juliette and Terry reviewed the Nomination process.

- Renewing for a 2nd Term: Jane Marie and Demetri
- Expiring Terms: Juliette and Ray; creating two (2) vacancies for parish members, *It's 'open season' and appropriate for council members to encourage friends to consider stepping forward.*
- Incoming Vice Chair: Fred

Terry will speak from the pulpit at all Masses April 22 & 23. Drawing names will be at Mass May 20 & 21 with 2 more names (alternates) drawn after Mass.

Perhaps council members can/will be asked to hand out slips of paper and provide pencils for nominations, most likely in the gathering space after Masses. Father Bob suggested wearing uniform name tags specifying council member.

Last year approximately a dozen names were submitted. The year before, just enough prospects accepted the invitation as were needed to fill all slots.

Ash Wednesday, Soup Supper

Juliette reviewed sign up for Ash Wednesday.

Blue Sky Initiate

Increased Participation (Jane Marie, Andrea, Mary, and Ellen)

Jane Marie has been in contact with staff, getting feedback as she designs comfortable and effective opportunities for staff to become more visible. Suggesting one weekend per month, the selected staff member is present at all three (3) Masses and available in the gathering space for questions, and a blurb of introduction would run in that day's bulletin. Also, once a month a bulletin blurb promoting a particular ministry. The staff or ministry group contact person would proof the column before publication. Joan reminded council of the deadline submitting info to Bryan the Monday before that weekend's bulletin. Jane Marie will draft a calendar, commencing this spring for discussion at next month's council meeting. Andrea, Mary and Ellen will interview individuals and craft spellbinding paragraphs of introduction spurring tremendous interest in each ministry highlighted and a surge in requests for more such communication in our bulletins!

Parish Communications (Joan, Joanne, Demetri, and Fred)

Jane Marie also shared update regarding Be My Witness (BMW). She met with Father Bob and Ellen on January 31. Each is viewing the promotional webinar and meeting again in March to compare recommendations. Is this initiative a good fit for our parish? After an assessment tool, phase one involves only staff and parish leaders, in learning modules confirming the parish goal and covering topics such as Evangelization Matters, and Sundays Matter. Material content draws from Pope Francis' the Joy of the Gospel. Phase 2 extends to the whole parish, by forming

small groups meeting for two sessions of 6 weeks, for faith-sharing, kin to Renew. (This program is born out of Renew.) Are there other sources of similar materials, e.g., those already provided by the archdiocese? We don't want to spin wheels or try to reinvent the wheel if an initiative already studied in the past few years (Rebuild, Grow, Amazing Parish) could similarly move us forward. Would participation in BMW engage a broad enough participant group to justify the \$6,000 fee? The goal is to fuel the flame of faith in our parish. Can we achieve this with programs other than BMW?

A big question remains: how to draw in and engage millennials? Joan has repeatedly posed this challenge to council while volunteering to move forward in obtaining a speaker with expertise on this age bracket. She sent links to all of us, one month ago, chalk full of descriptions and stats about this unique and evasive group of prospective members. She asked, does BMW offer advice and practical application tips particularly for millennials? Jane Marie answered, while there is mention of millennials in some learning modules BMW is not geared toward any one specific age group. Joan awaits direction re: the timeline to advance study of this concern.

A recent past assessment provided scores of demographic stats. How many local households are Catholic, and how many are members of St. Pat's? Where are local Catholics attending, if not at St. Patrick and from where else are we drawing members? The answers guided council in drafting a 3-year plan, prioritizing blue sky items including: resuming a church nursery and being more visible in the city.

Community Engagement (Terry)

Discussion of an increased presence during the Inver Grove Heights Days festival and other community engagement efforts beyond IGH Days were started.

Juliette reviewed options to increase our participation in IGH days. Is a booth the next step? Dimitri wonders if we should consider a booth at, e.g. South St. Paul's Kaposia Days Festival and On the Road Again Boyaa celebration and other neighboring cities' festivals. Joan explained St. Kate's decided against a booth at the state fair, since visitors expect a 'freebie' and the host table can appear cheap if none is provided.

Joan also informed us a 2040 comprehensive city design committee is looking for input from faith communities in the city. She is a part of this city commission.

Father Bob reminded the council of the IGH Ministerial group which he regularly attends. Mayor George Tourville is also a member. Father Bob encouraged the group to supplement monthly meetings of shared prayer (over lunch hour) with community outreach projects with joint involvement. The annual backpack give away is a prime example of the IGH faith communities working together to serve needy in our area.