



# Church of St. Patrick

## Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes --- October 23, 2018

- I. **Attendees: Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC) Members:** Jane Marie Rief, Chris Bravo, Andrea Sherman Johnson, Demetri Zepeda, Joan Robertson, Terry Osburn, Rob Madden, Mary McCahey, Tony Sporer, Mary Sethre, Jan Preiner  
**Staff:** Fr. Brian Fier (Pastor), Cindy Reckinger (Parish Administrator)  
**Trustees:** Judy LeMire, Doug Fangmeier  
**Parishioners:** Kathie and Dave Barclay, Linda Unten
  
- II. **Prayer:** The meeting opened with prayer. The PPC also sang happy birthday to a member celebrating his birthday today. The chairperson read the Parish Mission and Pillars.
  
- III. **Parish News Update:**
  - A. **Meeting minutes** --- The PPC secretary will create the minutes and email them to the PPC chairperson. The PPC chairperson will proof the minutes, clarify any questions with Father Brian and Cindy and distribute to all PPC members via email with a deadline to review. The completed minutes will be sent via the PPC chairperson to Bryan Collins (staff IT coordinator) to review. Bryan will get approval from Father Brian and Cindy for final approval and posting. Printed PPC meeting minutes will be placed in the rack with the bulletins located just outside the office. There will be two months of minutes displayed with the bulletins.
  - B. The PPC chairperson announced that the church is under a **spending freeze**. A Trustee explained that this is due to a cash flow difficulty at this time due to some unexpected maintenance expenses. Finance Council (FC) is working on an interim plan for the remainder of the year.
  - C. An update was given regarding our Victim's Fund offering. All needed funds have been collected and distributed to the attorneys representing the Archdiocese. Many thanks to all the parishioners who donated to make this happen and help the victims.
  - D. Bryan has cleaned up links on the website. It was suggested that the PPC become familiar with the website. If there are any other links needing to be removed, or if anyone has suggestions for links to add, contact Bryan.
  
- IV. **Volunteers needed for November Donut Sunday:**
  - A. The chairperson sent around a signup sheet for the two Sunday Masses for November 25<sup>th</sup>. Donations typically only cover 2/3 of the cost of the donuts. We will continue to have Donut Sundays for the fellowship and welcoming gesture. We will try adding a sign that says: "Your donations help cover the cost of the donuts for all. Thank you!!" We will see if the additional signage helps with covering the full cost of the donuts.
  - B. Fruit will not be offered as an option due to the spending freeze. The Gluten Free option will continue to be Bagels.
  
- V. **Blue Sky Results from three-year PPC plan:**
  - A. The chairperson highlighted some of the Blue-Sky initiatives that have been completed. These include: reopening the nursery, new hymnals, family night, a booth at Inver Grove Heights Days. Going forward, the PPC will work on Blue Sky initiatives for next year after consulting with the

parish commissions, the staff and the trustees.

**VI. Funeral Lunch Ministry:**

- A. Parishioners who facilitate the Funeral Lunch Ministry joined the PPC to discuss funeral lunch ministry. The ministry includes talking to the families, grocery shopping, preparing and serving food, and cleaning up. The mission is to provide a welcoming environment for the family to gather, to share memories and to serve a lunch of the families preferred choice at a reasonable cost.
- B. The financial costs include groceries, \$25 trip fee and \$75 hall rental. Receipts for groceries are turned into the office and those who are shopping are reimbursed. Families are charged through the office.
- C. The PPC will ask the FC to consider the costs, especially in light of our parish's current financial struggles, and make recommendations for pricing this service based on what other churches in the area are doing. The Funeral Lunch volunteers take great pride in keeping costs and prices down for grieving families.

**VII. How can we heal as a parish? How can we move forward from the Archdiocese's ongoing "clergy sex abuse" scandal? How can we recognize how St. Patrick's has been affected?**

Initial thoughts include:

- 1) Continue to offer a petition in the Prayers of the Faithful at all Masses;
- 2) Post a prayer card to be used in the Adoration Chapel -- a member has volunteered to find a suitable prayer card;
- 3) Conduct a Healing mass -- The chairperson will bring this to the Worship Commission;
- 4) Provide resources from the Archdiocese and publish the resources in the bulletin -- The chairperson will follow up to learn what these resources are.

**VIII. Proposal to Revise Organizational Structure -- Fr. Brian provided the PPC and trustees a copy of the "leadership guide" from his previous parish. Everyone was asked to review this document for the next PPC meeting.**

**IX. Commissions Meetings:**

- A. **Parish Life and Social Justice** will take down the crib and transport donations this week. The crib was overflowing with donations. The Giving Tree project will begin next with the trees going up in the next week. All donations will be sent to organizations in Dakota County.
- B. **Worship Commission** is preparing for the Mass of Remembrance in November and planning for environment during Advent.
- C. **Faith Formation Commission** is planning the All Saints Day retreat. There will be a costume parade prior to the 10:30 AM Mass for the children to share their Saint costumes. The St Nicholas Craft Fair has many vendors already signed up. **Saint Pat's Youth Advisory Committee** is starting to plan for the next mission trip potentially to the Carolinas to assist with aftermath of the hurricanes. They are also planning for the SPY Haunted House on October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- D. **Finance Council** is planning for how to cover the cash flow issue we are facing. This is due to the cost of unexpected repairs this past year.

PPC adjourned to join the Commissions reports in Shamrock Hall at 8:25.