

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday November 8, 2018 @ 8:00 PM

Downstairs Conference Room

Attendance:

- a. **Present:** John Breiten, Deb Burns, Casey Christofferson, Gayle Hotchkiss, Amy Jacobson, Tim Kriegler, Charity Mulenga, Kathy Schmidt, Roger Kemman (Finance Council)
- b. **Staff:** Randy Gracyalny, Rob Olsen, Trevor Seivert, Mary Kate Van Wagner, Laura Warzecha
- c. **Excused:** Nichole Ferrera, George Riesselmann

Opening Prayer:

Fr. Mike

- Sunday's Gospel (Mark 12: 38-44)
- Brief reflection and discussion in small groups followed by sharing with whole group

Maintenance to Mission

- Parish Mission starting Sunday night, November 11th through 14th.
- Speakers include Fr. Bart Timmerman, "Foundations of Evangelization"; Mary Kate Van Wagner, "Kerygma- To cry or proclaim as herald"; Kristin Bird, "What is your story? That story is a fantastic tool in our world"; and Fr. Gary Krahenbuhl, "The parish's role in discipleship."

Approval of Agenda

There was consensus to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes/ Corrections

Nichole Ferrera's name missing in attendance list for October.

There was consensus to approve the minutes.

Introductions

Casey Christofferson, Finance and Parish Council. Welcome Casey!

Commission Reports

Pastoral Care

- Two people were added to the hospital ministry team and are covering Monday and Friday. This frees Laura and Fr. Mike so that they can focus on other duties.
- Laura, Ann Schroeder and Sarah Gracyalny received respite care training. Another 8-9 people will be trained at OLA.
- Routine BP checks identified two people with very high blood pressure. It was suggested that they follow up with their doctors.

- Women's cluster bus trip went very well.
- Prayer chain had a lot of requests in October including one day when 9 prayer requests were made.

Social Justice

- GOD's Fund has now partnered with St. Vincent de Paul due to lack of a local Salvation Army Case Worker.
- Immigration presentation is being planned for mid-January
- Dismas ministry is collecting money to help buy recovery bibles for those in jail/prison
- St. Joan of Arc (mission parish) received a check from OLA parish to help with hurricane victims
- Caritas day at Culvers is December 5th
- Spiritual adoption will take place the weekend of January 19 & 20

Liturgy Commission

- October Count down from last year.
- Giving tree will be up December 1-2.
- The cross will be moving to the wall for Advent.
- Tabernacle will move to a new place behind the altar- see how it looks. Placement options must be complete by Lent 2019.

Education Commission

School

- OLA School Accreditation
 - Positive experience; everything went well.
 - Thank you to the Pastoral Council and others who contributed to the process.
- First trimester ends November 16th. Report cards this year will be a combination of a Traditional Report Card and a Standards Based Report Card.
- In honor of Veterans Day, John Breiten will speak to the students about flag etiquette on November 9th.

Faith Formation

- **Adult Education**
 - RCIA has 5 inquirers; 2 will be added in January/February from the Dismas Program
- **Student Formation**
 - First Reconciliation Family Retreat and Sacrament set for Sat. Dec. 15th from 9 am to noon. There are 45 kids (School and Faith Formation).
 - No Faith Formation classes Thanksgiving week or weekend.
 - Last class for Faith Formation semester is Dec. 19th.
 - "Circle of Grace," the safe environment curriculum mandated by the diocese has been implemented. The full curriculum is on the Diocesan website.
- **Youth Ministry**

- Confirmation dates for the cluster have been submitted. We do not know yet when our date will be.
- Confirmation Retreat, Camp Gray, in Reedsburg WI Dec. 15-16. There are 25 candidates including some from St. Stephen's Clinton.
- **ADVENT-ure Sunday**
 - Dec. 9 from 1-5pm.
 - K-Grade 5 children's activity day to prepare for Christmas.
- OLA Parish Mission
 - Great response from High School to help with child care during the mission.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass, (Hispanic Community) will be held at OLA Wed. Dec. 12. There will be a fiesta after Mass and no regular Faith Formation classes.

Child Care

- Will provide child care during Parish Mission for children under 5 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm.
- Child Care will be closed Nov. 22-23 for Thanksgiving.
- Hired one teacher assistant from the High School Early Childhood Program. Looking to add one more teacher/assistant to prepare for the new year.
- Kiddie Ranch, a local child care center, is closing and OLA Child Care has been receiving calls. Some kids were offered part time spots and others placed on the waitlist. Families are also informed that OLA has immediate openings for 3K/4K and up. School enrollment packets have been mailed to interested families.
- Child care is getting a new shed for toys using the Annual Funds and are thankful for the opportunity.
- Additionally, ordered supplies for the play yard using grant from the Youngstar Program. So far, Child Care has received 3 of the 4 picnic tables they ordered and are waiting for the fourth table and a mud sink.

Parish Life/ Stewardship Commission

- Time and talent brochures being analyzed.
- Reviewed all activities at the Fall Festival and discussed ways to change or improve next year. A little over \$42,000 was raised for the parish budget
- Committee members volunteered to help distribute Financial Stewardship Pledge Cards on weekend of Nov. 17-18.

Finance Council

- Casey Christofferson joined council as a Pastoral Council Rep
- Working on where our giving levels are. Trend in decreased giving is widespread and not just at OLA.
- Analysis of giving shows that persons aged 55 and over account for 74% of the pledges.
- Presentation on Sunday November 4th by Bryan Theis, a financial advisor with Edward Jones, had few people in attendance.

New Business

- **Parish Mission**
 - Starts Sunday Nov. 11 and ends Wednesday Nov. 14th.
 - There will be fellowship after each presentation.
 - There will be Adoration on Wed. Nov. 14th from 9 am – 11 am
 - All are encouraged to attend
- **Cluster Meeting Report (St. Jude, St. Thomas, St. Stephen & OLA staff, pastoral and finance councils in attendance)**
 - Forty-seven people attended meeting.
 - Items covered include a presentation on the Hispanic Ministry by Araceli Montoya, church and school security, Parish Mission, and summer gathering for Mass for the cluster parishes.
 - Telfer Park was chosen as the ideal place to host the summer gathering because it is 'weather proof.' A small group of volunteers will organize the gathering.
 - Regarding security, some churches have started locking doors while others are still discussing the topic.
- **October Count**
 - Hospitality Ministers performed the counts.
 - Overall, number down by 7.5%. Biggest drop was at 10:30 Mass.
 - Weekend average was 726.
 - Trend in low church attendance is global.
- **Pastoral Council Photos**
 - Needed to put on website.
 - Fr. Mike to take pictures after meeting.

On-Going Business

- Question was raised whether we need sharps containers at OLA (for diabetics for instance). This came up because a needle was found at the school playground. The health committee will take up the issue.

Good of the Parish

- People have complimented the wonderful Fall Display around the Parish.
- Members who came from Portage for the Mission Choir practice enjoyed the experience.
- It's wonderful how OLA School kids bring joy to the whole place when volunteering at Second Harvest.

Closing Prayer

Fr. Mike

Next meeting: December 6, 2018 at 8:00 pm.