

**Saint Mary Catholic Faith Community
Pastoral Council Meeting
September 11, 2017
6:30 pm Meeting**

Minutes

The meeting started at 6:35 pm after all of the Council members had their photos taken.

Attendance

The following members were present: Fr. Brian, Clem Budny, Jim Schubilske, Julie Behrman, Colleen Czajka, Aaron Bieniek, Tom Fredrickson, Matt Cool, Robert Gabor Jr, Eric Karakis, Jess Petre, Fred Matestic, Carol Stachowiak, Tim Reidy, Gina Styer

No members were excused or absent.

Opening Prayer

Gospel reading for Sunday 17 September was read (Matthew 18: 21-35). Council members shared their reflection on the Gospel. We closed the opening prayer with the "Prayer to the Holy Spirit of the Second Vatican Council".

Review/Approval of Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Council approved the minutes for May 8th and August 14th. There was a correction for the August minutes: Tim Reidy is also a parish representative to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council.

Review Pastoral Council Meeting Schedule

After reviewing the schedule for the upcoming year, Fr. Brian asked the council to consider two changes to the schedule. The November council meeting was moved to Nov. 6th and the February meeting is moved to Feb. 5th.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Brian asked council members to attend the Archdiocesan Spirituality of Stewardship Leadership Conference. The Conference is held on November 3rd or 4th. Registration is required.

Fr. Brian discussed expectations for council members. Council members need to make this council a priority. When asked, please respond to emails and phone messages. Also, it is very important for council members to be active members of their commissions. Make sure you are attending the commission meetings. Lastly, please ensure that you are conveying appropriate messages from the Pastoral Council. At the end of every council meeting we will agree upon the messages from this body to the various commissions.

Rich Curran Update- Jeff Kacala & Fr. Brian

Jeff and Fr. Brian provided a detailed update of their work with Rich Curran. Jeff stated that their September meeting with Rich was very successful. The staff worked hard to write down everything that St. Mary offers: ministries, formation and education, outreach, social events, etc. St Mary is good at ministering to those that walk through the door and who are over the age of 50. However, we have an aging population. The staff is learning about being leaders. St Mary is experiencing the same effects as almost every church with downturns in attendance and revenue.

In the recent past, members of the Pastoral Council have asked for Fr. Brian to give his vision. However, it is not Fr. Brian's vision it's **our** vision. We need to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is not about a mission statement; it's about how we live our lives. The Parish Staff is coming to understand that they need to live the life of discipleship that they want our parish to live. They are working on an exercise to discover what we want our parish to be. To accomplish this the staff is working on defining their core values. They now have a two-page list of core values. The next step is to take these core values and turn them into "action statements". When complete the staff will present the list of action statements to the Pastoral Council. After that it will go to the commissions and out to the Parish Community.

The current targets for the staff are three-fold. First, they need to build the spiritual lives of the staff together. Next, a plan needs to be developed to reach out to all members of the parish who are not currently active. Lastly, a plan needs to be developed to draw more young adults into active membership in the parish.

They closed their update by stating that the staff is growing together and asking for prayers for the staff and especially for Fr. Brian.

Alpha for Pastoral Council – Fr. Brian

Fr. Brian led a discussion about having the Pastoral Council participate in Alpha. Reigniting our personal faith is an important part of what we need to do as leaders in our parish. Many of us present at the meeting have been exposed to Alpha and agreed that it is a program that is worth doing over (and over). Many of us talk about our Alpha experiences and how the experiences have changed their spiritual lives. Alpha is a very powerful tool and St. Mary is starting to see the fruits of this program as many of those that took part in Council Discernment participated in Alpha.

Two options for Alpha were discussed. One option is for the council to have our own Alpha session. This would take a group wide commitment for the 11 weeks of the Alpha course. One of the benefits would be our body coming together in prayer and faith sharing and would ~~to~~ include a retreat. The second option is for the council members to participate in one of the next two scheduled sessions. A few of the council members are already signed up for the sessions starting in September.

There was no decision about Alpha but we were asked to think about the council attending together.

Stewardship - Fr. Brian

Fr. Brian talked about stewardship as a way of life (it's not about the money.) Recently he traveled to a conference in Wichita, Kansas and he spoke about a parish there that is living proof of the transformation living lives of stewardship can bring about.

The fruits of stewardship St. Francis of Assisi in Wichita Kansas include:

- 85% of the parish goes to mass every week
- 300 people attend daily mass
- The parish completely funds a medical clinic in Wichita
- The Diocese of Wichita will ordain 10 priests this year and will ordain 10 next year

Most think that Stewardship is only about money. Stewardship is about a way of life. It's about realizing that everything we have is from God. We have been granted stewardship of our resources. How much time do I return to God? What am I giving back to God? This transformation will take time.

Dan, Maria and Fr. Brian are going to a conference in Atlanta next week to get more ideas.

Stewardship is about gratitude for what God has provided. Fr. Brian asked that all of us begin to read *Stewardship A Disciple's Responses* for discussion at subsequent meetings.

Pastoral Council Presence in the parish

There was a round table discussion about different things the council can do to improve our presence in the parish. The question was asked "How do we let people know who we are?" If we are the ears of the parish we need to be connected to the parishioners. Two ideas included staffing the gathering space once a month and providing coffee and doughnuts at that time, and, call new members.

Our new name badges are ordered.

Fr Brian stated that Confirmation is on Oct 8th and that the chairperson of the Pastoral Council gives a welcome to the newly confirmed at the end of the Confirmation Mass.

Also, please try and attend the 175th Anniversary Mass – Sept 24 @ 11:00 am.

Liaison Reports

Jess and Julie met with Dan to discuss their role with the Spiritual Life and Worship Commissions.

Fred presented the Social Concerns yearly and monthly reports. Minutes were distributed from their last meeting on August 28th. 20 people attended the meeting along with a guest from Catholic Charities. Fred? stated that it was a vibrant committee. At that meeting there was a discussion about human trafficking. Perhaps St Mary should/could address this problem. Fred is excited that they meet monthly.

Robert said he and Aaron met with the Finance Council.

What's on your mind (open forum)

Julie talked about reading your Parish Leader Update and asked if everyone is getting one. Please check your email.

Eric said that the 5K Royal Run held on September 8th was a great event. 275 runners registered. A good turnout for the first year.

Dates to Remember:

Archdiocesan Spirituality of Stewardship Conference	November 3 / 4, 2017 (Registration Required)
Royal Affair	November 4, 2017
Parish Mission	February 11-14, 2018

Closing – Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

9:15 pm conclusion

Next scheduled meeting – October 9, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Fredrickson