

St. Dominic Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

8 September 2016

Present: Fr. Dave Reith, Fr. John Gibson, Jodee Tlachac, Michael Ricci, Meg Siehr, Megan Anderson, Nora DeLise, Jerry Buting, Mario Montalbo

Excused: Jim Palzewicz, Jeff Sladky, Mark Otten

1. Opening Prayer: Meg Siehr
2. Review August Minutes: unanimously approved with changes
3. Pastoral Council Planning
 - a. Review Last Year's Goals: Father asked us for discussion of 2015 Goals/Feedback
And
 - b. Read "A Vision for the Future: Evangelization and the Sunday Mass" in preparation for September Retreat
 - i. Jodee asked how Mass attendance was quantified and if it has always been done.
 - ii. Father Dave answered that it has been tracked for about a dozen years, and that the Hospitality Ministers, including Confirmation students, count the attendees during Mass.
 - iii. Father Dave noted that this is the first year in many that there has not been a gradual decline in Mass attendance. Within a margin of error, we have to report to the diocese a count, and we are up. It is not something as substantive as a 15% increase, but certainly not a decline.
 - iv. Father Dave commented that the way we will try to grow is by building connections, capitalizing on the grace moment of the Pope Francis effect.
 - v. Jodee asked about YAC and how long it has been in place (in reference to last year's goal of growing Mass attendance).
 - vi. Michael answered that it has been in place but has grown over the years, and that, while we didn't hit the 15% goal, the two areas in which one can look are #1 and #4 from the feedback sheet.
 - vii. Jodee cited a complaint from some Formation families that when the 9:00 Mass extends over an hour in length and the students are consequently late to Formation classes held in the school, some have not been allowed in to class.
 - viii. Jodee relayed the concern that the overlap of Mass and Formation classes with a resultant inability to enter Formation class has eroded the adolescents' sensitivity to the Mass and to the priest.
 - ix. Council discussed alternatives to mitigate this conflict.
 - x. Father Dave replied that it's worth looking into with Sarah and Debbie

- xi. Megan said she will bring it up as liaison at the Formation meeting.
- xii. Jodee noted that the problem has become chronic and has led to some families' attending Mass at other churches.
- xiii. Moving on to our goal of Growing Disciples:
Father Dave asked for discussion regarding the next point of feedback: Baptism.
- xiv. Jodee shared experience/anecdote of her connection to Baptism families.
- xv. Father Dave also noted upcoming marriages scheduled at St. Dominic.
- xvi. Jerry asked about the success of "That Man in You."
- xvii. Father Dave noted that both "That Man is You" and "Women of Grace" are doing well. As is attendance at Bible Studies. He notes we see more happening here than we did years ago.
- xxviii. Father John noted the easy temptation for us to grow Disciples for the sake of growing. Father discussed the potential for neglecting that this is an interaction with human beings, that we ought to be discipling. We should not be so concerned with the metrics (Mark Gundrum's word) that we compromise the relationship.
- xix. Michael asked what Father John meant by "discipling," to which Father John replied that, for him, it is going deeper with people.
- xx. Jerry referenced his conversation with his seminarian son and the question of people simply filling the seats in a shallow experience in which they are not fully present.
- xxi. Michael commented that it's a stage within the journey; it begins with the first step, and maybe that might mean it being superficial at first. Given the programs and opportunities, what do we need to stop and tweak? How do we reach that next person?
- xxii. Father Dave pointed to the paragraph in the Archdiocesan literature regarding how it's not good to have the same people within a parish doing the same things. How do we measure that? This is something we are commissioned with. Ways in which we can strengthen discipleship:
 - 1. Strengthening our youth programs
 - 2. Using our Prayer and Worship to enliven worship
 - 3. Human Concerns' role
- xxiii. Father Dave applauded Paul's music ministry and congregants' appreciation of his efforts and variety.
- xxiv. Father Dave concluded with how these are all different parts of parish life that we want to discuss on retreat. On retreat we will update some of our visionary ideas; we will think and pray about this on retreat.

4. Commissions

a. Formation

- i. Megan said she would be attending the first Formation meeting of the year the following week

b. Prayer and Worship

- i. Jodee commented on her enjoyment of it and appreciation of how much goes into the Mass. She noted how multi-generational the commission seems.
 - c. Human Concerns
 - i. Meg said she would be meeting with them on the 21st.
 - d. Finance
 - i. Michael said they would be meeting Monday.
 - e. School Advisory Committee
 - i. Mark said they would begin a week from Monday.
- 5. Chair Comments (Jim excused; comments from Father Dave)
 - a. Leadership Meeting signups
 - i. Father asked if we and our commissions are signed up for the Evangelization conference at the Archdiocese September 30 and October 1.
 - ii. Father noted that our retreat experience will pique what we bring to this conference.
 - b. PC Video Convocation 10/22
 - i. Father Dave mentioned that the Archbishop is going to do a special live video counsel on October 22nd from 9:15-9:45. This live streaming video is something new they are trying and is designed for parish and pastoral councils.
 - c. Deaneries Assembly
 - i. Waukesha East Deanery: Parishes in area want at least 2 reps from each parish. Used to be 1, but if parishes did not have representation, they'd miss out on too much
- 6. Pastor's Comments
 - a. "We Believe" sign
 - i. Michael introduced us to the signs, an idea that came from Stewardship committee. The October 1 and 2 Masses will have a video all about how we believe; it will include people giving individual messages, and the following week is a lay witness talk with that same message. At Mass the following week we will have post it notes in the pews. At the end of the witness talk, we will have quiet reflection time for people. People can post it, take it home, etc. Commitment wknd is the 22nd. Trying to keep that out there with different ideas. One thing we can improve upon is keeping the theme going.
 - ii. Father Dave reinforced that in addition to this, our theme this year is based upon the Creed. Father Dave also complimented the sign's design that "the cross says it all."
 - iii. Michael said that they could use help getting the signs distributed after Mass; they have begun with 250 and will see what happens from there.
 - b. Parish Staff Clarification

- i. Father Dave reinforced that the recent changes in Parish staff were in no way terminations; they were mutually/reciprocally beneficial and agreed upon decisions based on the time needed from the parish to accomplish various tasks and the individuals' families' needs.
 - ii. Father Dave mentioned his gratitude and accolades for said parish staff members.
 - c. School Staff Update
 - i. Father Dave mentioned that recent resignations from a couple school staff members (both a veteran and newly hired) were not at all demonstrative of the individuals' professional unhappiness; rather, they are illustrative of career plans/goals these individuals had earlier disclosed, and other offers presented those opportunities. Father Dave and Jill Fischer are delighted at the people they have hired in their places.
 - ii. School enrollment is 440. We ended the year with 424 and had budgeted somewhere around 406 or 408.
 - d. Adoration
 - i. Adoration opportunities exist in the Quad Parishes, but people have asked if we can do more; St. Dominic would like to respond with one more possibility and individuals will be meeting to further plan.
 - ii. A late-night Adoration is not prudent because of security issues and resultant expense.
 - iii. There are also scheduling conflicts with other events.
 - iv. Looking into a 3:30-7:30 time window; this post-school and post-supper time frame is manageable and realistic. Staff members would be available to set out the Blessed Sacrament in appropriate fashion.
 - v. Goal is to meet with Paul, Father John, the deacons, etc., to discuss. This is part of the ongoing goal to increase our mission in Liturgical life.
 - e. Presidential Election
 - i. The Bishop's website articulates the importance of encouraging people to vote with a Catholic conscience.
 - ii. We don't want to violate responsibilities of being non-profit, etc. But we encourage people to go to website, as it is not wise for us to misuse the pulpit.
- 7. Closing Prayer: Meg Siehr

Meeting concluded at 8:33.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Anderson