

## St. Dominic Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

13 October 2016

Present: Fr. Dave Reith, Jim Palzewicz, Meg Siehr, Jodee Tlachac, Mark Otten, Jeff Sladky, Mario Montalbo, Michael Ricci, Mark Gundrum, Fr. John Gibson, Meg Anderson, Karen Chaffee

Excused: Jerry Buting, Nora DeLise

1. Opening Prayer: Year of Mercy Prayer
2. Finance Update: Karen Chaffee
  - a. Festival Overview:
    - i. Revenue Total
    - ii. Father Dave commented on benefits of weather and sponsorship.
  - b. Tuition:
    - i. We billed for enrollment of 440 but budgeted 431.
    - ii. We are the largest Catholic grade school in Waukesha County.
    - iii. This year's 7<sup>th</sup> grade class has about 20 more students than other classes.  
There is a reserve in place for when that class graduates.
  - c. Stewardship
  - d. Memorials/Donations:
    - i. Many recent funerals have included donations to St. Dominic Parish.
    - ii. 75 new families have joined the parish since January. Of those 35 are already contributing to Stewardship.
    - iii. 60% of parishioners contribute.
    - iv. Father Dave noted that we have not spent any money on liturgical items in the 13 years he has been here; they have all been donations, etc.
  - e. Finance Conclusive Comments
    - i. Michael Ricci pointed out the concrete significance/correlation for finance updates to those invested in the pastoral part of the Church: for example, last year, as a Pastoral Council, one of the imperatives was to increase and strengthen our youth and young adult program; that was a concern raised in the Pastoral Council, which then was shared with the Finance Committee.
    - ii. Father Dave commented that the new Online Giving will be a new component that likely changes our revenue.
    - iii. Karen said that some material suggests it could mean a one-third increase.
    - iv. Megan asked about the stewardship versus capital campaign and the confusion it caused last year; Michael and Karen said it will be cleaner this year.
3. Review September Meeting Minutes
  - a. Minutes approved by consensus.

#### 4. Pastoral Council Planning

##### a. Archdiocesan Leadership Meeting

- i. Mario remarked that he appreciated that it was mission-based and that it was inspiring to hear the Archbishop and his mission-centered message. He also commented that it would be a good idea to share the discussion about hospitality with the Prayer and Worship commission.
- ii. Megan remarked that it was advantageous to have been introduced to the material on retreat because it planted a seed that made it all the more meaningful at the Archdiocese event.
- iii. Father Dave said he felt a vibrant excitement in the air at the event; if it were not for the Grace of the Holy Spirit, one might become discouraged from a business standpoint, given the statistics – but the Holy Spirit wakes us up.
- iv. Father Dave said he thought that the commissions will be willing to enter a phase of conversation resultant of this leadership meeting's content.
- v. Jim reinforced that that is part of the process: from maintenance to mission.

##### b. Pastoral Council Retreat and Goals

- i. Father Dave applauded Paul for doing a great job blending richness and variety; he notes a sensitivity to people's needs and requests.
- ii. Father Dave suggested that Prayer and Worship commission look into the Hospitality Ministry program.
- iii. Points discussed from Susan McNeil's presentation on Retreat;
  1. The Greek Restaurant analogy: i.e., you can't do everything perfectly (Jodee).
  2. Reminder that Sunday is a time for *communal* prayer (Meg Siehr).
  3. *The Divine Revelation*: making connections and the idea of praying together and staying together, i.e., couples and Mass (Mark Otten).
  4. Father remarked that the relevancy is that we have hope for a more peaceful world. What is special about St. Dominic is the eclectic demographic; not simply a "65 and up club." Looking around PC table, it is reflective of St. Dominic as a whole: such a neat mix of demographic that it behooves us to apply some of these principles. How can we improve Mass attendance? We have the families.
- iv. Jim handed out notes from Retreat and his online examination of the Leadership meeting. (See notes.)
- v. Re: notes' discussion of Hospitality:
  1. Jodee mentioned possibility of narthex for more post-Mass community and fellowship.
  2. Michael questioned the spatial/financial reality (currently) of such a proposal and suggested that, for now, we be more creative.
  3. Discussion of difficulty for some people to make it to the Marcy Center.

4. Meg Siehr asked if some of the things that are done in the Marcy Center could be done elsewhere.
  5. Jeff asked if it is simply the invitation? To have a cup of coffee?
  6. Mark Otten liked the idea of a Ministry Fair after Mass.
  7. Father Dave said we could do it in the PAAC – there are creative ways to implement these hospitality ideas without a narthex.
  8. Father Dave wants to restart a Vocation Committee.
- vi. Jim handed out notes on Pastoral Council Meeting Planning. (See Notes.)
1. Mark commented on the importance of growing Disciples.
  2. Meg Siehr commented on people’s response to that phrase and “what does that quite mean?”
  3. Mario said we need to go into the commissions to ensure that we are creating and meeting benchmarks to secure and live the mission – because Susan McNeil reminded us that we need to change the mold.
  4. Intentional Goals: Jim made note that with Susan and Randy challenging us to go from maintenance to mission, we figured why change things up all together? Why not take the goals from last year and get more specific and detailed, more serious?
  5. Jeff asked how the progress of these can be measured.
  6. Jim answered that this is what should be taken to commissions; we should be asking them to think about this and tell us how they are doing.
  7. Father John said part of that accountability lies with the Pastoral Council as well – metrics by which we can evaluate ourselves.
  8. Michael responded to Jeff that we refer to them as “imperatives,” more of “action items” than an over-arching goal. For example, when we say “strengthen the youth program,” what does that mean?
  9. Father John asked most recent Mass counting percentage-wise; Father Dave answered that last time we submitted to the diocese, we were up modestly rather than a decline.
  10. In discussion of welcoming children and families to Mass, Jeff asked about some of the ideas for children that are suggested in Susan’s and Randy’s notes (such as “busy bags”).
  11. Megan commented on what a remarkable job Danita Stich is doing with the K4 students in preparing them for the upcoming Sunday’s Gospel; the children know what to expect from the story, so it is made more meaningful for them.
  12. Mark Gundrum reiterated his point that in order to engage youth, especially adolescents and teenagers, it has to be (anecdotally) 90% fun. We must think of fun and engaging activities if we want to strengthen our youth program.

13. Father Dave noted that Michael Klinker will be joining us next month with a report on what he has seen via YAC since July. We can discuss what is happening and then again in February when we do the budget.
  14. Mark Gundrum asked if there have ever been brainstorming sessions with the college kids and youth to come up with ideas.
  15. Megan suggested a core group like a Junior Pastoral Ministry Council (and referenced one from the mid-1990's).
  16. Jim said we will take all of this to our commissions.
5. Chair Comments
- a. New Member Dinner: a great opportunity for us as leaders to welcome new members and tell them what we like about St. Dominic, what drew us here.
  - b. Deaneries: Ours is Waukesha city and east. There are 2 reps from each parish; Jim and Mark Otten will be attending and reporting back.
  - c. Bring a Friend to Mass campaign.
  - d. St. Dominic will receive exemplary reward for Catholic Identity tomorrow at Teachers' Convention. 11 schools in total will receive it. The only high school to receive it is Catholic Memorial.
  - e. "We Believe" signs: 250 signs went quickly. There were immediate requests for 25-50 more.
  - f. Women of Grace: Informed Catholic Voting.
  - g. A note will appear in the bulletin: there will be a one-time offer if you have remains that are not buried, the archdiocese will bury them and offer them a Christian burial.
  - h. Saint Mary's Visitation will be hosting a dance and activities for people 13+ with special needs.
  - i. Monthly Census Tracking: the likelihood of ending on the positive side again.
  - j. Molly Schmidt created a spreadsheet of new members: there should be no one on here that, in the next month or 2, is not approached and welcomed.
  - k. Father reminds us that, as ambassadors, we can look at this and say that the facts are that we are increasingly becoming a parish of age 44 and younger; that is our newest membership. This spreadsheet provides data to put a face on this and is a good way to mark records; it makes a large parish a more manageable community.
  - l. Congratulations to Father Dave, who is featured in the Catholic Herald!
6. Closing Prayer: Michael Ricci

Meeting concluded at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Anderson