

Pastoral Council Meeting 9-27-10

Meeting started at 7:35PM (Fr. Sean Cunneen, John Ponterio, Kathy Mitchell, Louise Timko, Margaret Lewis, Lee Gillingham, Chris Haight, Rich Banasiak, John Abreu and Peter Nizner)

Opening prayer

John Ponterio led us in a reflection prayer surrounding wealth, riches utilizing the 9/26 Church theme. He shared stories surrounding the Lazarus theme regarding sharing and also spoke about upcoming Zacchaeus stories. John spoke about wealth, riches and how whether they affect our lives negatively or positively. We can all learn from the biblical stories of Lazarus and Zacchaeus.

After John's opening remarks, the group shared their stories about the topic and how you can see when individuals are either rich/poor from a spiritual perspective and how it affects our daily lives.

Cluster updates

1) Worship Committee (Rich Banasiak)

New replacement for current coordinator and secretary discussed.

Year-End evaluation (Christmas, Holy Week, Parish Fiesta, etc)

Upcoming recruitment weekends (10/9-10 & 10/23-24) - need for new ministers.

Living Rosary - scheduled for Sunday 10/24 at 4PM. Rich Banasiak, Betty Swisher and Jeanne Fox will coordinate. Planning meeting will be held Monday, October 4. Will be held either in Church or have an outside procession. According to Betty Swisher the living Rosary has been in the Church in the past.

We are looking into setting up future worship seminars with a liturgical theme.

2) Service (Kathy Mitchell)

New replacement for current coordinator and secretary discussed.

Core Group – Support local organizations in Plainfield in need of help (homeless, habitat for humanities, etc)

Grounds committee – Rectory basement usually floods. To fix the problem they re-graded the surrounding foundation. Also re-did electrical work in Church. A couple of the Nazareth Center doors were replaced. Future projects are: Repair/replace Nazareth Center roof. Fix suppression system in Church.

3) Evangelization – Louise Timko

New replacement for current coordinator and secretary discussed.

Catechist (core committee) Addition of new catechists will increase current evangelization cluster.

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Discussed whether or not trustees should be on this committee. There is no diocesan rule that says trustees must be part of evangelization committee. Possible that Lee Gillingham and Donard Gaynor could be placed in other clusters.

New Roman Missal – (see notes below)

Committee felt that meetings need to be more structured, organized and that agendas should be presented to committees well in advance of meeting to make meeting run smoother and allow members to come up with ideas in advance. This would allow for more productive meetings in the future.

Open discussions

- 1) Fr. Sean informed everyone that Laurene Staniec is trying to combine 3 separate church calendars into 1. Would be helpful when finalized.
- 2) Potential Procedural changes -- Lee Gillingham, Peter Nizner, Louise Timko and Rich Banasiak conveyed their ideas. Possibly set up Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) surrounding yearly Church activities which include Pastoral council, working committee and cluster meetings. Pastoral Council was in agreement that this procedure might enhance pre-meeting preparation and productivity at meetings. More to follow.

New Roman Missal

John Abreu informed us that he will be working in conjunction with St. Bart's in regards to how they are going to approach the upcoming Mass change. Formal training has not started yet, however Fr. Sean informed everyone that himself and Jeanne Fox have already attended training from the Archdiocese of Newark. John will be our main contact and will coordinate with St. Bart's and report back to council.

Financial report

Spent a lot of money on items that needed repairs that were long overdue (boiler, etc) which resulted in annual deficit of \$40K. Fr. Sean feels that we are still in good shape since many of the repairs will save us money in the long run. Slight decrease in annual collections (2%) which Fr. Sean felt was good considering the current economic conditions.

Making Music, Praying Twice program

Katie Wills outlined main features of this upcoming program-

- 1) Targeting newborn's to age 5 (Mommy and me theme) – Studies show greater learning capacity from both a music and general aptitude perspective.
- 2) Booklet/2 Cd's will be provided. Booklet will be broken down by liturgical seasons.

Goal is to reach out to families who get away from the Church after children are baptized.

Start date set for Jan 2011. Cost will be \$120 per child.

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Review current goals/objectives from agenda

Parish Directory

Currently have 170 families signed up which is a great start to meeting our goal of 400 families. Continue pushing signups. Caroline Ponterio will be spearheading ministry descriptions on website. 3 Clusters to review Parish website and get back to her with language for missing committees mission statement and ministries.

Fellowship Sunday

September's theme surrounded education led by Jeanne Fox was well attended.

October theme will be about recruitment which will be spearheaded by Worship Committee.

Beginning with November fellowship, noon mass will be dropped.

Pastoral Council replacements

– 6 current members will be dropping off effective June 2011. Need 6 new people for 3 yr-term. After short discussion, council felt that it would be best if 3 new coordinators and secretaries for Worship, Service and Evangelization committees should also serve as new Pastoral council members. This allows for a smoother transition and link between Pastoral council and individual committees/clusters.

Next meeting is October 19th at 7:30PM in Fr. Byrne auditorium. Rich Banasiak to prepare opening prayer (Blessed Mother theme).