

St. John the Evangelist Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes
December 19, 2017

Call to Order:

The meeting convened at 6:10 with Fr. Pierz offering an opening prayer.

In Attendance:

Father Michael Pierz, Deacon Dave Picard, Gary Lawrence, Anne Antonellis (for Dale-Marie Breault), Dorothea MacNeil, George Cornwell, Claire Riberdy, Julie Smist, Mikie Cook

Not Present:

Susan Chamberland, Paula Raiche, Wayne Ball, Mary Socha, Dale-Marie Breault, Joe Audette

Guests: Steve Smist and Sandy Picard

George asked for a volunteer to take Minutes. Mikie offered.

Commission Updates:

Parish & Family Life:

Fr. Pierz reported that a coordinator is needed but as of December no one has “stepped Up”. However, present at the meeting that was held in December were representatives of:

CYO basketball

AA Group

Catholic Women’s Club

Items that were presented were:

Irish Step Dancing (in the gym)

Winter Picnic

Trip to Ephesus, VT - to the House of Mary on August 15th.

Strength Training Sessions

Speaker on “Christ-Centered Stress Reduction” on January 16th.

Finance Report:

Fr. Pierz highlighted the recent concerns of the Finance Commission .

- All pledges for the parking lot renovation have not been fulfilled and most likely won’t be so our challenge is to encourage stewardship. PnePneumatics
- Weekly contributions have been up lately but it is unclear whether that is due to increased giving, increased attendance, or a little of both. Father proposed that it might be time for the ushers to do “a count”.
- Pneumatics are not functioning in the Pastoral Center and to remedy the entire issue will run in the area of \$200,000. We have not done well in preventative maintenance and we will have to do this in smaller parts for now.
- The roof over the PC foyer will be done in the spring.
- The sink-holes that keep appearing in the parking lot will continue to do so - it has to do with underground conditions whereby the asphalt rises and falls. The repairs should be about \$2500/yr.
- George Cornwell agreed to act as the liaison between the Finance Council and the Pastoral Council now that Mary Socha and David Ross are no longer serving.
- Parish Pay enrollees have been transferred to the We Share Program.
- The IT system is very complex and has had several vendors throughout the years but no ONE that was overseeing the entire system.

- There is a lack of an inventory of items and recently several copiers were discovered in various locations with no history of where they came from.
- There continue to be problems even in the phone system.
- Fr. Pierz has asked the diocese for a person who could address various tech problems but has yet to name anyone as yet.

All of these needs will be outlined and sent to parishioners.

Christian Service:

- Deacon Dave indicated that there was a little difficulty getting people to work one of the weeks for the Take & Eat Program but he thinks it's resolved for now.
- Fr. Pierz said that each Commission will have a "blurb" in the Christmas Bulletin and that we need to ensure that each activity in the Parish have a contact person attached to it and emphasized the importance of keeping all that we are doing in the minds of our parishioners.

Faith Formation:

- Dorothea proposed doing something special for newly married couples that have recently completed the Beloved Program.
- The question was raised as to whether all adults in the Home-School Program that meets weekly in our Pastoral Center and church should have a CORI check. Though they have an indefinite relationship with our Parish it might be wise to do it. Fr. Pierz advised her to check with Mary Beth Swindell from the diocese.

Spiritual Life Commission

- Anne A. remarked that the Novena to The Immaculate Conception went well and on December 27th, the Feast of St. John the Evangelist Sue Alekson will give a brief presentation at the 8AM daily Mass.
- Nothing yet has been planned for Lent but different formats for Stations of the Cross are being explored.

Evangelization Commission:


- Northeast Parish Revitalization Program will be held in February in Springfield. It is the hope that 2 members will be able to attend and bring information back to the Council.
- The Renewal Prayer will be placed in the hymnals and said with the lector leading at each Sunday Mass beginning the first week of Lent.

Worship Commission

- Julie felt that the meeting with the ushers went very well. It was well attended and they were receptive to new ideas. They said they still get comments on needing more Handicap Accessible parking.
- Training is needed in evacuation and security protocols.
- The new collection baskets are appreciated and are being used.

Pastoral Council By-Laws

Julie is addressing the ones that need to be amended and will have them by the next meeting.

We closed in prayer at 7:10 and went to the rectory for our Christmas  Social.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 9th @7.