

Parish Council Special Meeting

December 5, 2017 FJR

George Cornwell, Chair, called the meeting to order @ 7:04 pm

Fr. Pierz said the opening prayer

All introduced themselves

The only item on the agenda is the discussion of the reorganization of the Pastoral Council.

Fr. Pierz set the stage for the discussion: purpose of the meeting is to understand our organization and the best means of organization. Bishop was here this past Saturday for confirmation - found the parish to be very welcoming - students well prepared. Bishop appreciated the leadership of the parish. The parish is made up of the people who live within the bounds of our territory, whether or not they come to mass regularly. We have a long beautiful history here, albeit tumultuous for the last few years. We want good communication and solid organization; need to understand who our parishioners are and how can we respond to their needs. We need to be clear and aware of when/where the commissions are meeting. We are the too big to be a small parish, too small to be a big parish, our numbers are modestly increasing (increase numbers in RCIA, collections increased, number of baptisms increased), have to grow into that bigger shell (shoes), just look at number of things going on right now. He has great expectations for the Pastoral Council. How can we best fulfill our mission- reaching the hearts and minds of the people to bring them home, closer to God?

@ 7:19 we began our discussion:

Where we are now in terms of Council membership?

- 2017 - 4 members terms were done
- 2018 - 3 members terms will be done (plus one resignation)
- 2019 - 2 members terms will be done (plus two resignations)
- Usual pattern - elections in May, those elected in May, come to the June meeting, to get ready to start work in September.

There was a lengthy discussion around the following questions:

- What is a "good" number of members for the Council?
- Should some be "permanent"? some elected at-large every year?
- How to fill vacancies? By appointment?
- How many elected members would be best?
- How many Ex Officio members? What are their roles?

Proposed reorganization:

The six Commission Chairs would fill the "permanent" seats on the Council. Currently the commission are: Christian Service, Evangelization, Faith Formation, Family and Human Life, Spiritual Life, and Worship. The Commission members would elect their chair who would be

responsible for calling and facilitating the meetings of the commission; reporting on the work of the commission to the Council as a whole, and communicating the wishes of the Council to their respective commissions. Six at-large seats on the Council would be filled by parishioners elected by members of the Parish to serve a three-year term (two seats would be open for election each year). The Ex Officio members to the Council are: Deacon Dave, Pastoral Minister (Francesca); Director of Religious Education (Dorothea). Currently Deacon Dave (Christian Service) and Dorothea (Faith Formation) are serving as commission chairs. They will encourage another member of their respective commissions to serve as chair, as they already serve on the Council as Ex Officio members. This will bring the Council to 12 regular members.

The proposed organization was approved by consensus. We will hold elections in May; Julie will draft the change to the bylaws to be voted on at the next meeting.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec 19th @ 6:00 pm in the FJR for the regular business of the monthly Council meeting. Pot luck social will follow @ 7:00 pm.

Closing prayer

Meeting adjourned @ 8:33 pm

Respectively submitted,

Julie Smist

Secretary pro tem