

St. John the Evangelist Parish

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

October 10, 2017

Call to Order:

The Pastoral Council meeting was held in the Father Joyce Room of the Pastoral Center and convened at 7:05pm with an opening prayer led by George.

Attendance:

Present at the meeting: Father Michael Pierz, Deacon David Picard, Joe Audette, Wayne Ball, Mikie Cook, George Cornwell, Gary Lawrence, Dorothea MacNeil, Claire Riberdy, David Ross, and Mary Socha.

Guests: None

Not Present: Sue Chamberland, Paula Raiche, Mary Scannell, and Julie Smist

Approval of the September Minutes: Read and accepted with updates.

Updates from Commission Chairs:

Evangelization: Mikie reported on the FORMED rollout; 58 people have registered on the website. September 19th, the day after the rollout was the biggest registration day. 388 people have visited the site. Mikie hopes these numbers continue to grow.

The Commission is still working on a Welcome Packet for new or prospective parishioners. Gary is going to update the website with all of the Ministry contacts. Mikie would like each of the Ministries to write up a blurb on the Ministry, these could be used in the Welcome Package or for the website. Each Ministry should have something written up by the next Pastoral Council meeting. Mikie also handed out a sample of these types of write-ups from another Parish.

Parish Family Life: Father asked George to reach out to Paula of the Parish Family Life Commission to have her contact outside groups to have them participate with the Commission. Father reiterated that each Commission should reach out to each of their Ministries and invite them to participate with the Commission and get back to the Council with updates.

Christian Service Commission: Deacon Dave said that the Commission met last Monday, they would like to get more young families involved. The Commission has reached out to UMass and their Rite to Life program and hope they will share it with St. John's. They are also working with the Bethlehem House and may have another baby shower. Deacon Dave has recruited Zach Dion to help engage the confirmation class to help with Take & Eat.

Father noted that Mary Scannell is moving to Florida to be with family and leaving St John's, Father expressed his appreciation for her work over the last eleven years. Father has asked Deacon Dave to look into our Pastoral Ministry for ways to improve it going forward.

Father would like to add ministering to the gay and lesbian community, support groups for Cancer, Substance Abuse, Suicide Prevention Separated and Divorced Catholics and Youth to the Pastoral Ministry and he reminded us that our Parish includes all people in the Agawam area.

Faith Formation: Dorothea handed out the Faith Formation Report. Dorothea noted the upcoming First Reconciliation and Confirmation along with their preparation. CCD classes are going well, although she is now in need of a 6th grade teacher as the current teacher has found full time employment that conflicts with classes. The Future Saints Club is progressing with a few tweaks to make it more efficient. Dorothea is working with Claire and Gary to have a family page on the website.

Worship: No discussion but minutes were distributed.

Open Discussion: Father opened the discussion by reiterating that he would like current leaders to continue the good work that is being done. Father sees leaders of the Commissions as good Council members. A lengthy discussion was had about how the Council members should be selected and where they should come from. Some members expressed concern that parishioners want to have a representative (voice) on the Council. Several members see the need for a clear vision so that the right people can be chosen for the Council.

George sees a consensus that we come up with a vision, and we would have a Council made up of seven Commission Chairs and eight elected members. Father would like to elect four new members soon so that more new voices can be heard.

The Council makeup discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

Father Pierz Comments:

Father handed out medals and cards of the "Prayer of the Angel" that he brought back from his recent pilgrimage to Fatima.

Adjournment:

The meeting was closed with the Prayer of the Angel led by Father Pierz.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Next Pastoral Council meeting: November 7th, 2017 in the FJR