

St. John the Evangelist Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes
November 7, 2017

Call to Order:

The meeting convened at 7:10 in PC 2 with an opening prayer.

In Attendance:

Father Michael Pierz, Deacon Dave Picard, Gary Lawrence, Stan Ciempa (for Julie Smist), Dorothea MacNeil, Dale-Marie Breault, George Cornwell, Claire Riberdy, Paula Raiche, Wayne Ball, Mikie Cook

Not Present:

Susan Chamberland, Julie Smist, Mary Socha, Joe Audette

Guests: None

George asked for a volunteer to take Minutes as David Ross (secretary) resigned since we last met. Mikie offered.

Commission Updates:

Christian Service:

Deacon Dave stated that Diane LeDoux has been unable to connect with a youth group in Belchertown but has received a great deal of information from the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops). She is looking to focus as well on End of Life issues. Additionally, she would like to foster more response to keeping vigil outside of Planned Parenthood sites. Father Pierz suggested ...

The 40 Days of Life campaign was the most successful ever and Dale recommended a movie on FORMED called "Forty" and said that it would be great for a youth group.

Gary stated that the annual "Giving Tree" Program is right on schedule and that Mary Scannell's role has been transferred successfully to Barbara Quaglino.

Gary distributed a revised Commission/Ministries spread-sheet with instructions to make any changes and get it back to him.

Faith Formation:

Dorothea related the support that CCD instructors provided to the students following the sudden, tragic death of one of their classmates at the middle school level. The "Boxes of Joy" program had a good response and many boxes are being sent to children in third-world countries.

Spiritual Life Commission

Dale-Marie indicated that the All Souls' Day program of a Prayer Service followed by Adoration and Mass was well received but it was thought by some to be a little too long (2 hours).

She is working with Claire who teaches Confirmation students in planning their evening of reflection. She has someone to provide the upbeat music (Paul Gory) and members of her

Commission, the Evangelization Commission, and others will be writing letters to the students to encourage them on growing in faith.

Regarding Advent: There was a discussion on how to schedule 3 weeks of Adoration followed by Confession. Wednesdays were suggested but questions arose as to the implications on the Live Your Faith series on that same night beginning at 6:30. Father Pierz proposed extending our normal hours of 8:30 to 3 by 2 hours and he would hear confessions following that and people could then still attend the series at the Parish Center. Gary Lawrence said he would do from 4 to 5 and Deacon Dave will do from 5 to 6.

Dale had conflicting information regarding the next Cursillo weekend to be held at our parish. Gary thinks it's in February '18 and gave her a contact - Fr. David Raymond.

Evangelization Commission:

Mikie indicated that registration on FORMED has increased from 70 to 88 in the last month and plans are to have times when people can bring in their devices and get help if they are having trouble in its use.

Cheryl Passanisi provided an Evangelization Prayer said every day at her grandmother's parish in New York and membership grew to more than double in two years! Mikie read the prayer and the Commission will make copies and place them in the church hymnals.

The outreach during Lent will be about coming home to God's love and mercy as we focus our program on "Forgiven" and we hope to give each family a book, "Everybody Needs to Forgive Somebody" when they come to Mass on Ash Wednesday or the First Sunday of Lent.

With an emphasis on "Building Community" we will start hosting a monthly (maybe weekly) coffee hour to follow one of the daily 8 o'clock Masses. Father Pierz said he would like to attend and maybe do a question/answer informal format. Cheryl Passanisi is making the arrangements.

Mikie will take the names of CCD students that Dorothea put in the main entrance, divide them up and place them at all entrances where prisoners can take a name and pray for that young person in strengthening their faith.

More FORMED cards were ordered and received with some slight changes and each member took some with Father Pierz keeping the box in a central location (office).

At this time the Commission will re-visit attendance at The Catechetical Congress as it may be more than just Alpha being promoted. Deacon Dave will speak to Mikie about blending the Alpha approach to the FORMED seminars.

We hope to engage those who are already excited about what they are hearing about the Faith in the SYMBOLON series and challenge them to reach out and draw others in.

Worship Commission

Stan said that they needed to get more information on what the sacristan does to set up for each Mass and Father said to check with Rose Ciborowski.

The question came up about the practicality of only one Mass on Christmas morning. Everyone thought that one should be added but not sure as to the time.

He also said that help was needed to clean up after the bazaar on Saturday the 18th.

Parish & Family Life:

There has been no activity. Paula had recent surgery and she left this meeting early.

Father Pierz's Concerns & Unfinished Business

There are several building/grounds concerns:

- Recent notification of a \$20,000 fine levied against the church for failing to have the elevator in the rectory inspected. No one in the rectory even knew there was an elevator and it's in the hands of a diocesan lawyer.
- Ongoing sink-holed issues

There are several Pastoral needs that have no "Home" at this time.

We need support for cancer patients and their families, those who are separated or divorced, the gay and lesbian community, families affected by the opioid crisis, suicide prevention, youth, and young families to name a few! What Commission? Who?

Father said that he received a call from a psychologist (Dr. Daniel Offsay) who was offering to give a talk on coping with stress by focusing on faith. No Commission is taking this on.

The priest who celebrates the Latin Mass (extraordinary form) will not be able to do it starting the first week of Advent.

Father Pierz will do it half of the time ad orientum (ordinary form) in English. All are invited.

He sees a need to investigate a program called "Retrovaille" which offers a life-line to married couples who are having problems and may be separated and on the verge of divorce.

Rob Weiner from the town called and asked about maintaining St. John's Field (which we lease to the town) so that various baseball teams can use it. The Finance Council will look into this but it should not be a problem.

At the December meeting we will formulate the next step in getting elections underway.

Miscellaneous:

Tim Murphy & another St. Mary's/Westfield parishioner stopped by on the way to the first meeting of Men of St. Joseph. It is a successful program in their parish and in others and they wanted to assist in starting a chapter at St. John the Evangelist.

Father said a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:50.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 5th @7 and our Christmas Social 🎄 will be Tuesday, December 19th.