

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2021

6:00PM – 7:30PM

Council Members Present: Alex Barker (Vice Chair), Sue Coyle, Deacon Mike Eash (Pastoral Leader), Mark Mongin, Erin Rosales (Chair), Anne Staelens, Elizabeth Strick, Daniel Thiel (Trustee Secretary), John Zadrazil

Council Members Absent: Chong Ly

Meeting was called to order by Erin Rosales at 6:05PM.

Opening prayer was led by Deacon Mike Eash.

Agenda was motioned for approval by John. Seconded by Sue.

August meeting minutes were motioned for approval by Alex. Seconded by Mark.

Annual Parish Meeting Summary – Deacon Mike

Deacon Mike reported that the Annual Parish Meeting was a success. His intention during the meeting, was for the parish to be transparent with parishioners, as far as what is currently happening with the church. He acknowledged that we have an unbalanced budget. He wanted this piece to be relayed to parishioners, but did not want parishioners to feel pressure into contributing in an already difficult world environment. He noted family registration is increasing and he is seeing new registrants participating at mass, which is very positive.

Sue thought the meeting was optimistic. It was felt that holding the meeting in conjunction with coffee and rolls was a great idea. Alex extended appreciation for John Lord being transparent and very knowledgeable on the church's financial planning.

Parish/Community Welcome Back Game/Casino Night – Deacon Mike

Deacon Mike reported the diocese had put forth an initiative to Welcome back and invite parishioners back to parishes. This was to occur the last weekend of September. Deacon had felt (and this was seconded by the executive committee) that the time constraints to roll this out and do a good job of doing so, was too tight. Additionally, there was not a strong comfort level with rolling this out amidst increased COVID-19 rates. Deacon Mike therefore met with the executive committee to gauge which type of event could be pushed out and planned appropriately to meet with diocese initiative but be done well. It was determined that the event would be a Game/Casino Night. The event will begin with Mass on Saturday evening, followed by a meal, and then Game/Casino Night. The event is planned to take place on Saturday, November 13th. Deacon reports the committee planning this event has three volunteer members. He was looking for one member of the pastoral council to also participate on the committee. ***Dan volunteered to sit on this committee.*** Deacon reports that he is going to tap into feedback from other parishes who have run similar events. He was also going to see what type of games might already exist at these parishes, or in our storage. Plan is to have some adult games, some kid's games, and some family-oriented games.

Mark asked about utilization of a rental company for some of the games. Mike said that this would be a possibility, depending on what may already be available to use between the parishes.

Mike reported that he wants each committee that we have a liaison for to take on one section of the event i.e., food, games, beverages, etc. These will be assigned once the committee undergoes some planning.

Mike reported that he used Wine and Cheese as a gauge to determine potential parishioner interest. At recent Wine and Cheese there were 65 participants, so he feels the parish is ready for this event.

Mark suggested that Youth Ministry could help with small child games. ***Mike said he wanted to tap into Xavier and see if he can get some participation from their youth to assist with this event.***

Erin stated that a faith component needs to be integrated into this event, so the true meaning of the event is not lost.

Liaison Reports

Education and Discipleship (Dan) – No report, as potentially new recruit to pastoral council was interested in being liaison to this group. She did not commit to pastoral council, so Dan will resume duties as liaison to this group.

Worship (Alex) – Alex reported he had no direct conversation with Sherry Zwicky. He did report having some discussion with parishioner, Richard Bartosic regarding desired changes to Worship. ***Dan suggested that Alex promote recreation of the Worship committee as “Abundant Sunday Committee”.***

Living Justice (Mark) – Mark reported there was no update on Habitat for Humanity build. Service Sunday is coming up on September 26th.

Evangelization (Anne) – Had door to door evangelization initiative. Lou, Andy, Anne and two others were provided a list of addresses and they split into two routes. She informed us they visited a total of 12 homes and provided a small gift of apples. Will be sending cards as follow up to the people who were visited. She emphasized that discussion was not surrounding “Why you are not at church”. It was to see if St. Bernard Parish can do anything for these individuals, and it was emphasized that the reach out was done under the direction of Mike Eash.

Anne reported that Evangelization Committee has volunteered to help with praying with the people during Advent. Praise and worship for youth on Sunday evenings is planned. Next Sunday evangelization committee will be sending care package to college students. ***Monies are needed to send these care packages; Dan suggested that a free will offering be done alternative where parishioners can bring in specific items that are needed, much like was done for the Friends of Haiti collection.***

Mark suggested that we get list of new Appleton residents in our area and recruit these people to our church potentially, but just reaching out and introducing our parish.

Faith and Family Life (Elizabeth) – Elizabeth shared that when it comes to Xavier and Catholic schools who require monies to be provided to them from each parish, we shouldn't have an “us versus them” mentality. She reports that parishes that have an older demographic need to make a way for a good relationship between school and parishes, because these students are our future. If we don't come up with a way to get them involved, then the parishes will die out. She reports that Faith and Family Life

committee was formed as a means to do so. St. Mary's, St. Joe's and St. Bernard are three parishes that are working to use this strategy.

Elizabeth reported that the backpack blessing went well.

Anne recommended that we have a Student spotlight in our bulletin to highlight students from our parish that attend Xavier schools. This may help the parish better understand why we contribute a good portion of our annual budget to the school.

Pastoral Care (Sue) – Reported most volunteers are visiting again. Assisted Living and Nursing Homes can be touch and go. Nadine Duncan had checked on our mission boundary to see that all facilities were being covered. Nadine is planning for a training of volunteers to do communion with shut ins.

Senior meal took place August 27th. 60 people attended. Marth Ministry helped to run the event.

Sue reported that she would like to plan a training for Power of Attorney for Health event. Possibly looking at after 10PM on October 17th date.

Operations (John) – Reported the budget deficit noted during financial meeting. Indicated that security camera system has been installed and is running. Doors are not complete. The windows needing replacement have been installed. Landscaping was just completed.

Closing Prayer was led by Daniel Thiel.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM