

Blessed Sacrament Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2017

Members Present: Randi Roerick, Kelly Thomas, Howard Steiner, Brian Spiess, Micheal Johnson, Jane Kading, Lisa Wattenhofer, Fr. Adam, Fr. Brian, Steve Renell, Jon Schaack, Leonard Hansen, Teresa Vining, Cyndi Fischer and Elizabeth Nezland

Opening Prayer: By the council - Psalm 149

Steve moved to approve the minutes and Jon seconded. Minutes were approved.

Fr. Brian introduced Micheal to the Council. He noted that no one knows the exact format for how we will work together but we will figure it out together. Micheal added that according to the bi-laws he is a voting member of the Council.

Gogie mentioned Priesthood Sunday and congratulated and thanked the priests for their service.

Ministry and Committee Reports:

1. Youth Ministry Reports: Mary - submitted as written. Elizabeth Nezland, a student who helped found the new youth group Synergy, shared more information about the new group. She stated that "as disciples we want to bring people into our church, and that's the whole idea of Synergy." A group of young people came up with the idea of having a group not divided by gender or age, like Y Disciple. They'd like to introduce bible study on Sundays and activities on Wednesday before their group discussions. Eventually they'd like to have a Synergy Y Disciple group as well. She feels like they've lost a lot of HS students because the kids aren't sure church is worth their time, they are hoping that by introducing a fun activity they can change this image. They are sending a flyer to all 8th/9th graders and across all social media sites. They are also sending a letter to parents, posting signs at church and in the bulletin. Howard asked if money was an obstacle for them to do more activities and Elizabeth said that it was. They are working on updating the teen room, Gogie suggested we take a tour at some point. Fr. Brian noted that there can be no educational requirements after confirmation.
2. Liturgy Committee Report - Attached as written and presented by Lisa Wattenhofer
3. Pastoral Planning Team - Fr. Brian - They haven't met as they were waiting for the new Parish Administrator to be hired.
4. Electronic Outreach Committee - Gogie provided background on committee for new members. A new website has been created. Eric Helgeson and Luke Brown are the other members. They would like to expand membership to others, including youth, to assist with writing and photography.

Old Business:

New Business:

1. Jon and Randi will take on the task of revising Pastoral Council summary materials and seeking out candidates for the coming year's Council.
2. Steve felt like there might be more interactions with council members at church if people knew who we are - ie. Name tags. Howard added that members should take turns being greeters at church. Micheal suggested a table after mass where people could talk to someone about issues or concerns. Howard and Steve will work on a schedule. Micheal also suggested that Council Members talk to congregation. He stated that our mission really is to affect positive change in our parish community. Nothing about Jesus was "stuck" but we do get stuck because we are creatures of habit. We can change together.

3. Randi noted that the driveway on the West side of the church says enter only but people frequently use it to exit. Kelly mentioned that this might have been decided by the state to prevent accidents. Howard will talk to state planners and see if they have any insight.
4. Leonard presented an idea about including a “did you know/why we do this” type of section in the bulletin. He presented that sometimes its hard to develop your faith or share it with you children if you still have questions sometimes about even some basic beliefs - often because we were taught these things as children and might not have ever been told why. Fr. Brian said that Pauline puts the bulletin together based on what’s been submitted to her and that we could include something like this. Fr. Adam said that the confirmation students are also doing this. Teresa noted that the short answer could be included in the bulletin with links to longer more in-depth resources possibly on the website.
5. Tonchi Weaver approached Cyndi about speaking at church about a Euthanasia bill. Fr. Adam noted that the bill had not acquired enough signatures to be placed on the ballet at this time. Fr. Brian stated that he is very conscious of not allowing the mass to become politicized. Micheal stated that he wants to get a handle on communication and work to refine how messages from the church are passed along to the members of Blessed Sacrament.
6. Howard felt the council needed to talk about church safety in light of the recent shooting at Sutherland Springs Church. He suggested that people with concealed weapon permits notify the parish office that they carry weapons. This would provide an opportunity to be aware and proactive. Fr. Brian noted that these events provide sad opportunities for conversations about safety and prevention. It was discussed how schools have changed their approach to shootings (ALICE training) and whether or not the church has a disaster plan for events like these. Fr. Brian will get in touch with Chris Grant and the RC Police Department.
7. It was decided that each parish council members will take a chapter of the Diocesan Priority Plan and read it and present at a future meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday January 8th, 2018 at 6:15pm.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randi Roerick, Pastoral Council Secretary