

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes: February 2018

Present: Father Dennis, Meg Anderson, Jodee Tlachac, Mario Montalbo, Joel Vandendriesche, Jeff Sladky, Mark Otten, Chris Norton, Kathy Hoffman, Matt Bruce, Jim Palzewicz, Jerry Buting
Excused: Father John

1. Opening Prayer: Mark
2. Review January Minutes:
 - a. Minutes approved by consensus
3. “The Weekend Mass Experience” Initiative: Discussion/Decision/Plan:
 - a. St. Dominic’s will hold an event on May 12th, which will be open to all parishioners; it will be an opportunity to roll out our plan to the parish.
 - i. Between now and this date in May, our direction to the commissions will be released.
 - ii. Father Dennis hopes that the paper we send the commissions will provide them with both vision and some highlights of what we want to include.
 1. Father Dennis wants to stress that nothing is off the table for introducing our idea to the commissions; he wants them to brainstorm and then bring their ideas back to us. We will then serve as a sounding board resultant of/responsive to their ideas.
 2. Hopefully, then, by the May event, there will be an energetic response; this ideally will create a reinfusion of parishioners into the commissions.
 - b. The Amazing Parish event occurs in October; hopefully, our idea will be energized by May so that, by October, Father can call on people and ultimately repopulate commissions with parishioners, as they are currently so staff-heavy.
 - c. Our idea and repopulation of commissions is not going to change the staff agenda but is instead going to run parallel to it.
 - d. In May, Father Dennis may introduce our initiative in a homily.
 - e. The whitepaper, therefore, cannot be too specific; for example, if we include that we want “more Eucharistic solemnity,” a commission may propose that we incorporate more bells.
 1. We will maintain our original copy, and we will share with commissions a less specific one; this will allow us to offer them specificity and direction.
 - f. Re-direction/Sub-discussion of the “Weekend Mass Experience” Initiative: Parishioner Involvement:
 - i. Commentary that many congregants are not stewardship-driven (in terms of time, not treasure). This has been a parish (and, to a degree, Church-wide) problem for years.
 - ii. The question was raised as to how volunteers are received and treated by the staff.
 - iii. There was discussion and exploration of why there is such high volunteerism in the school but not in the parish.
 - iv. Efforts should be made to use technology to reach out to people to learn their interests and skills – because there are silent people who might really work well within a role or commission.
 - v. Father Dennis evaluated and spoke with every staff member. There is a current need to redefine roles. Often staff members have taken on roles because the activities were nebulously categorized and there was no one to perform them; but they really weren’t in the individuals’ jurisdictions. Our initiative will help to

- clarify staff responsibilities within roles and create roles for parish volunteers within these contexts.
- vi. Discussion of article on Chicago parish that increased its Mass attendance by 64%, and how our new initiative will help to materialize that goal.
 - g. Jim suggested that we use the rest of February to work on this document. Then, by March, we will introduce it to the staff; by May, we would like to start moving forward with it.
 - i. PC members should digest, pray about, and think about how to move forward with this by next meeting.
 - ii. Father Dennis commented that perhaps one night in June or July, for example, all of the commissions could meet on the same night; this would allow this to percolate with the commissions.
4. Nomination Process:
- a. Discernment dates are set for May: May 24th for member discernment and 31st for officer discernment. (May 10th will be the meeting that interested individuals are invited to attend.)
 - b. Jim's Mark's and Jeff's terms expire.
 - c. Jim and Mario will commence the process of nominations and discernment.
5. Issues:
- a. March 3rd Retreat:
 - i. The retreat is canceled so that we can focus on "The Weekend Mass Experience" initiative.
 - 1. We will instead have a parish-wide "workshop" of sorts. This will not be a spiritual event but instead more of a "State of the Union of the Parish." We will present the mission and how we plan to move forward.
 - 2. While all will be invited, we are most interested in commission and staff members, i.e., those who have an interest in what we are doing.
 - 3. Like the Synod, it will be a presentation, not a retreat; a presentation on discipleship.
6. Closing Prayer: Mark

Meeting Adjourned: 8:09.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Anderson, Pastoral Council Secretary