

November 20th Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 4:59 PM

I. Call to Order (Jen)

Time: 7:04pm

II. Roll Call (Pete)

Fr. Jon, Deacon Mike, Jen Barker, John Kearney, Pete D'Antonio, Jen Coelho, Brandon Cooley, Mariann Gilbride, Colleen Hirst, Theresa Woodward, Greg Demichele, Andrew Miller

III. Opening Prayer (Fr. Jon)

IV. Approval of Minutes (Jen)

Motion to Approve: John Kearney Seconded: Jen Barker

V. Committee Reports

1. Liturgy
 - a. December 13th Music Ministry Christmas Concert
2. Faith Formation
 - a. Increase in vacation bible school attendance is possible under the current Morgan Hall facility. Even a 25% increase in students would fit in the church. Beyond that we need to look at the school.
 - b. Electronic payment will be taken for VBS registration, signup will be online.
3. Social Justice
 - a. SSJNC - 50 parishioners volunteering at the center currently
 - b. Seeking giving Tuesday ideas for the center
 - i. Cheryl Judge is getting student who will produce a fundraising video
 - ii. Photos of the SSJNC will be shown at hospitality Sunday
 - iii. John/Andrew propose to check in with Sister Bonnie, Fr. Jon, and Committee to have a quarterly review to see how things are going.
 - iv. Exploring immigration activities in 2025 to support vulnerable populations, initial thought is to wait and see how the needs materialize in the new year.
4. Representative to Haddonfield Council of Churches
 - a. Hosted "feed my starving children" this past weekend (Nov 16/17th)
 - b. Lutherans hosting thanksgiving service 7p this Sunday (Nov24th) , our music ministry is participating
 - c. Mt Olivet MLK service on January 19th

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

1. Discernment Meeting Question: Should we invite Bp Williams to experience it, so as promote this model of parish governance throughout the diocese? (Fr. Jon)
 - a. Council generally supports inviting Bishop Williams and would welcome him to speak at the event.
 - b. Fr. Jon may shorten state of the parish remarks to add Bp Williams to the agenda.
 - c. Fr. Jon will write a letter of invitation
2. Approval: Annual Report July '23 through June '24 (see attachments) (Fr. Jon)
 - a. The council favors the shorter version of the report with possibly removing photos
 - b. Pastoral numbers were rectified to the fiscal year so there's appropriate comparison
 - c. Mass attendance is the average number of people at weekend Masses, Marianne proposed to edit title for clarity.
 - d. Andrew asked what % of people were first time donors.
 - e. School attendance and religious ed total attendance could show a more clear snapshot of the parish.
 - f. CapEx numbers need to be clearer on the first read of the document. Proposal to do two bottom lines (one without the CapEx numbers)
 - g. Jen C. proposes a complete list of our active ministries, show what our parish is up to.
 - h. Pete proposed adding some qualitative data to show CTK is doing well
3. Disruptive Masses (see attachment) (Fr. Jon, on behalf of a parishioner)
 - a. Jen says we have to stress the importance of our young parishioners while acknowledging their concern.
 - b. John says we need to be careful about making policy about 1 parishioner.
 - c. Greg says its an indicator of a healthy parish, we can't forget this at CTK.
 - d. Andrew says the front of the church is far quieter than the rear of the church. We could recommend parishioners sit in the front.
 - e. Eucharistic adoration and weekday Mass are quiet.
 - f. Pete indicated that families open to coming back to Mass are concerned about being welcomed as they are. The content of this letter is the embodiment of their concern.
 - g. Fr. Jon will speak with the parishioner in question to share recommendations from the council.
4. Catholic Leadership Institute's Disciple Maker Index survey results and response

- a. John is concerned with a very low participation rate guiding policy, 1600 total email addresses with 111 responses. Also concerned that it's not granular.
- b. Jen C. says we should consider this the voice of the most active parishioners.
- c. Pete offered that we should take it as informative and for advice only. Not a sole policy driving data set.
- d. Father Jon says we should do micro feedback on events to avoid survey fatigue. We could do constant contact.
- e. LITURGY COMMITTEE
 - i. Growth Via Music Participation (34% agree, 31% strongly agree)
 - 1. Need more information about peoples taste
 - 2. **The bulletin should be more informative about music ministry events so they can voice their opinion**
 - ii. Mass Helps Deepen Spiritual Growth (45% agree, 41% strongly agree)
 - iii. SMART Target increase to 40% strongly agree with a **brief survey of parishioners asking them what they would stop, start continue. Council says this is not needed since the ministry has such high approval.**
- f. SOCIAL JUSTICE
 - i. 38% of people volunteer 1 time per year or less
 - ii. **Looking to increase that number, 'bring a buddy day' to SSJNC so people see what is happening there.**
 - iii. **How are we doing meeting with Sister Bonnie will help increase the volunteer rate**
 - iv. **Organize a group of parishioners to volunteer specifically in the biggest area of need, do a personal ask for the best response rate.**
 - v. Sharing faith monthly, 22% of respondents. Jen says we could incorporate this at the tables with hospitality Sunday.
 - vi. **Approach financial giving, reintroduce the parish giving app asking people to renew their parish giving commitment and increase for cost of living.**
- g. Faith Formation Committee
 - i. Religious Ed Favorability, 66% unfavorable
 - ii. **Committee will review the previous religious ed surveys.**

VIII. Closing Prayer (Deacon Mike)