

OLPH Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes, August 17, 2015

PPC members present: Margie André, Greg Bedell, Fr. Jerry Boland, Kevin Boyle, Nancy Detlefsen, Shannon Dowdle, Elizabeth Hoshaw, Dave Ludden, Bill McCabe, Mark McKinley, Bob Michels, Karen Navarre, Jim Riley, Julie Ruchniewicz, John Thissen

Opening Prayer: Nancy Detlefsen

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of July 20, were approved after correction made by John Thissen.

Parish Transition Process: Cathy Lentz reported on the "Parish Transition Process." This process enables a parish to review and assess how they are carrying out the mission of the gospel. Cathy reminded us that "The church doesn't have a mission; the mission has a church." The transition process forces a parish to ask tough questions, to look at its ministries, and to evaluate what it does well and what might be improved. Cathy emphasized that carrying out the mission of Christ is fundamental to this process.

Part of this process is a comprehensive survey of parishioners in regard to parish life. This survey is provided by the archdiocese and tailored to the individual parish. A steering committee of 3 or 4 parishioners then meets weekly for three to four months with twenty to forty-five selected parishioners to discuss the results of the survey. Each parish decides what they do best, their "Pearl of Great Price," and how they can build on that to better carry out Christ's Mission. Each parish must decide how they can best call their community to spread Christ's word and to evangelize. Fr. Jerry said that approximately 1/3 of the parishes in the archdiocese have gone through the process. Cathy estimated a time-frame of six months to complete the process.

PPC 2015 Goals: The following goals were discussed and approved by the PPC:

1. To initiate and be instrumental in leading the parish through the Parish Transformation Process.
2. To use the Laudato Si' encyclical to support the Pope and to teach parishioners the power of the encyclical through various means.
3. To work closely with the ministry communities and individual ministries to address issues of succession, new membership, parish exposure, etc.
4. To use The City as the main means of communication within the PPC.

Ministry Table at the Block Party: It was agreed to have a Ministry Table at the block party in September. Two members of the PPC will preside at this table to distribute information on the parish's various ministries to those interested. It was agreed that an announcement in regard to this information table as well as a banner would help to draw people in. The table would be open for one to two hours.

Community Leader Role: The Community structure with assigned leaders as well as names and contact information for ministry leaders were distributed at this time. Dave Ludden also distributed and then discussed the "PPC Community Leader Guidelines." Two PPC members are assigned to one of the five communities. The community leaders serve as liaisons between the PPC and the various ministries. By September, community leaders should communicate in person or by phone with each of the ministry leaders.

Summit Discussion: Shannon reported that the Parish Council Leadership Summit will be held on Saturday, November 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Techny. A continental breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. PPC members should arrive for set-up at 8:00 a.m. A sub-committee is being formed to discuss topics to cover at the summit. Community leaders were advised to contact ministry leaders to "save the date." An EVITE will be emailed with details toward the end of September.

Finance Report: Jim Riley distributed the report on Revenue and Expenses for the 2014 fiscal year. Jim said that it had been a "good year for the Parish." He added that we are in a "strong cash position with very little in terms of liability. Jim said that a goal of the Finance Council going forward is that more emphasis will be placed on First Fruits.

Bob Michels questioned our change from second collections to First Fruits. Fr. Jerry answered that First Fruits reflects the biblical generosity of stewardship and tithing but added that there is a need for more conversation and education about the concept of First Fruits. Shannon suggested that we table the conversation until we had more data from Nancy Schwider.

Honorary Acknowledgements: Shannon asked for two PPC members to discuss ideas for honorary acknowledgements for both Fr. Hickey and Sr. Marie. Shannon added that it was proposed by those attending 6:30 Mass that the pew Sr. Marie sat in for Mass for 62 years be dedicated to her. This proposal was well-liked by members of the PPC.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Jerry reported that the new social worker is doing great. She is working in synch with Sr. Paulanne, and she has been able to connect people to existing resources.

Regarding the Youth Minister position, Fr. Jerry said that there is one more applicant to be interviewed. If this candidate is not hired, Father said he may suggest holding off until a later date. He said that the obstacle seems to be the compensation. The salary is commensurate with an entry level position, and we are looking for someone with experience. Father said he may have to discuss the compensation with the Finance Council.

Closing Prayer: Margie André

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:40.