

# **SAINT BRENDAN PARISH: Pastoral Council Meeting**

**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Jason Swager opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**ATTENDING:** Linda Haptonstall, Jason Swager, Brigette Blair, Chris Flynn, Desiree Engel, Reinaldo Aguilar

**ABSENT:** Fr. Jim Northrop, John Bush, Ken Elliott

**OPENING PRAYER:** Jason opened with a prayer asking for guidance from the Holy Spirit

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Mission Statement was read as a reminder of what we are called to do.

**Open Microphone:** None

## **Pastors Report (Linda for Fr. Jim)**

- Close out letter for the Capital Campaign will be in the bulletins.
- Child's programs are overflowing: 100+ in pathways, 60 for first communion, 20+ for Little Disciples, 20-50 in Children's Liturgy, 20 in Confirmation, about 20 in LifeTeen.
- 20 new families represented at the last Newcomer Social; as it increases in size, looking to split into two – one Spanish, one English.
- Leadership (Good Leader, Good Shepard) is ongoing.

## **Eyes and Ears**

- Reported by several Pastoral Council members - after talking to or overhearing parishioners and after listening to other Commissions and Councils: the perception is that the Parish isn't handling finances as well as it should. Although a small factor, the lack of weekly information about the size of the collection and where the parish stands, week-by-week is seen as the tip of the iceberg. Delays in getting financial reports out, wrapping up the capital campaign reports, multiple years of Catholic Appeals without visible progress, and the in-the-red budget also contribute. Reporting doesn't need to be complete reports of every single cent, all accounts reporting – but at

least something for the bulletin weekly and occasional inserts (like the recent ones). With no reporting – or the very sporadic ones being seen – the feeling is that the parish isn't being transparent and forthcoming about where the money is going. There has been some delay in getting reports back from the archdiocese and some information, but that shouldn't have explained the several months of lack of information.

- On the flip side: Fr. Jim's Sunday talk on the finances had some positive feedback (he spoke louder, slower, and was more forcible in his talk). "He's taking charge and stepping up" was one comment.
- Fr. Ron is fitting in well – good reports about him from several sources. He did surprise some parishioners by not doing a homily on a weekday Mass.

## **LAISON REPORTS**

### **Hispanic Commission:** Reinaldo

- Planning for the Nov and Dec activities. Putting together committees to handle each event and give different members of the community a chance to be involved.
- Thanksgiving dinner being planned; volunteers being organized.
- Las Posadas (sp?) Was pretty well attended last year, may be even more this year. Chris recommended having English translations available; not uncommon to have the local school's Spanish teacher to require students to attend an event like this.

### **Parish Technology Committee:** Linda

- Not a formal Council or Commission, but is new, formed of volunteers responding to the bulletin insert. 5 volunteers at the moment.
- Working on technology related aspects of the GPS plan: communication items, facilities planning, website changes.
- Jason: glad to see volunteers coming forward, one volunteer reported that every year they fill out the volunteer form, indicate "Technology", but never hear back. Sad for letting someone fall through the cracks, glad that they persevered and came forward regardless.

### **Faith Formation:** Brigitte

- No meeting yet. Staff members had to change due to Andrew being overloaded; Linda will help instead.

### **Stewardship:** (Jason substituting for Chris)

- Father was there to answer questions from Stewardship: where does he see the parish being in 3 years, especially in regards to Hispanic

community integration. Also, what is the role of Stewardship and the other commissions/councils?

- Had questions about finances (same as during Eyes-and-Ears), also requesting more transparency and accountability. Costs have been trimmed – need to look to the parish for help rather than cutting more. Make the parish aware of the current financial state.
- Requesting 3-party meeting between Stewardship Commission, Finance Council and Pastoral Council. Tentatively targeted at Feb, although January was what Fr. Jim suggested.

**Facilities:** Jason

- Had a Ron Runyon representative from the Choir come in to provide feedback on the bids for the audio system. He pointed out deficiencies in the existing bids, recommended that the audio system not be “just replaced”, but updated and enhanced. Was concerned that the bids were to replace existing equipment – complete with existing drawbacks –rather than fix the audio problems. There is still a third bid coming in (company had been in to see the church, but bid hadn’t been presented yet). Expect to be higher because it will probably be an “updated and enhanced” system rather than a same-old replacement.
- Regan Corwin and Mike Cano had also been asked for input to the audio systems and bids.
- May have to go back and have previous two bids updated so that all three bids target the same end result.
- Concerns about budget for equipment (furnaces, boilers, roof) that is approaching end of working life and needing replacements.
- School, Parish, and Rectory inspection tour completed, report needs to be written up.

**School Commission:** Desiree

- No meeting this month

**Peace and Justice:** John

- Looking for more members.
- Linda will reach out to Pat about members from the Right to Life group.

**Worship and Spiritual Life:** Linda for Fr. Jim

- Went over Many Gifts, One Spirit.
- The Commission will need to work with the Liturgical Pastoral Associate; recommendations to Fr. Jim, implementation to PA.
- Will evaluate upcoming liturgical changes (like for Advent) and compare to similar situations in the past.

- Help recruit more members and support the existing liturgical ministries.

**Finance Council:** Ken - absent

**Follow Up from Previous Meeting**

- In regards to a Sunday evening Mass: continue to listen and ask questions of Parishioners. Educate when possible. There does seem to be a growing awareness that an additional Mass requires more than just a priest – but all the liturgical ministers, choir, and congregation – all of which will be coming from other Masses.
- Census numbers for Masses slightly down from last year, continuing the trend from previous years. The Spanish Noon Mass is now just about 15-20 people short of matching the 10AM Mass.
- The focus on Mass attendance – how to get more of the disengaged to attend.
- Desiree pointed out that church teaching: missing Mass is a mortal sin. But how to get that point across without seeming judgmental and more inviting. How to get Christmas and Easter-only Catholics to come to the rest of the Masses?

**January Meeting Change:**

- January's meeting will not be on New Year's Day. It will be moved to Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) instead.

**CLOSING PRAYER and ADJOURNMENT:**

Pastoral Council closed at 9:10 with a prayer by Jason.