

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

**February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

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

**ATTENDING:** Fr. Jim Northrop, John Bush, Ken Elliott, Linda Haptonstall, Brigitte Blair, Desiree Engel, Reinaldo Aguilar, Chris Flynn, Jason Swager

**ABSENT:** All present

**OPENING PRAYER:** Brigitte opened with a prayer

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

**Open Microphone:** None

## **Pastors Report**

- The collections for the past couple weeks has totaled \$33,000, plus an additional \$8,000 directly sent for the deficit. This is a big step towards resolving the financial issues, but tough budget decisions will still need to be made. Prayers appreciated for this decision making process.
- School is going well
- Funeral for Gwen with the school and parish
- Good Leaders, Good Shepherds continues. Classes are going well.
- Lent is starting; a busy Lenten season is planned.
- About 80 children had their First Reconciliation
- Right to Life March in Olympia went well, although few students came.
- Rebate check from Catholic Community Services; \$3,700

## **Eyes and Ears**

- Desiree and Chris: Heard little about budget concerns after Masses.
- Desiree and Jason: Right to Life March had very few students attending. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are given an opportunity to attend, but only a few did. Parents had voiced concerns about safety. But there haven't been issues with that in the past; this year didn't even

have abortion supporters, there were no offensive pictures used, and there were numerous speakers and even time to talk to legislators. There is concern that school families are looking for a graceful way to avoid the Right to Life March, possibly because of discomfort with Catholic teaching. Suggested that maybe if the March became a full-class activity, students and parents would have a chance to experience this part of Catholic teaching in practice.

## **LAISON REPORTS**

### **School Commission:** Desiree

- A new School mission and philosophy statement was worked on.
- 40% of school families are not in compliance with volunteer/financial giving, including the tithe commitments to the home parish.
- Looking into a Date Night fundraiser.

### **Hispanic Commission:** Reinaldo

- Met with Fr. Jim, Francisco, and Juanita on how to help parish with financial problems. Decided on a “St. Brendan’s Got Talent” fundraiser, combining musical and other talents along with a Bite-of-Seattle dinner. Small portions of food from different cultures represented at St. Brendan. Targeted for March 15<sup>th</sup>. Child care provided.
- Commission into looking into possibly providing snacks after the Noon Mass on the third Sunday. That is the Knights of Columbus breakfast, but they finish up before the noon Mass starts.
- There is lots of energy to help the parish; the Commission is trying to find constructive outlets for it.

### **Tech Committee:** Linda

- Charter being worked on, Sean Genovese is the chairperson.
- Focus on decreasing staff work (not entering data twice)

### **Worship and Spiritual Life:** Linda

- In the process of organizing a Lenten dinner
- Members attended a conference on the Triduum Liturgies

### **Faith Formation:** Brigitte

- Had first meeting with representative from the archdiocese.
- Meeting will start up on a regular basis.
- Linda is currently the staff member, but will transition to Andrew as he gets settled into Youth ministries.

- Will get a copy of the Faith Formation Assessment results and GPS items associated with Faith Formation.

**Sister Parish Committee:** Brigitte

- Update: in June, 3 to 7 parishioners will visit Bishop Montfort

**Peace and Justice Commission:** John

- Contacted Susan, still getting information
- Will contact Andrea

**Stewardship Commission:** Chris

- Working on getting a phone-a-thon to reach parishioners that have given in the past, but not this year. May increase this to all registered parishioners, possibly a census opportunity? Issues with technology (Internet going down on St. B campus) and on getting the script put together. Suggestion to use personal phones, but some families may not answer if not from St. Brendan.
- A letter has been sent out for the appeal and some census related questions and option on how to give.
- Requested to know how many families give electronically: Linda responded that about 110 give via EFT. More may give with alternate forms of electronic giving.
- Requested that the dropping of Stewardship as a Parish from this year's budget be announced publically.
- Requested more details about financial status regularly. Desiree supported this; numbers should always be available and (relatively) up-to-date. Jason suggested different presentations: the concise/succinct approach of the bulletin, a larger one that the Tripartite meeting saw with more line items, and the big one used by the Finance Council (last two web available maybe?)
- Brigitte: suggested that Stewardship – and anyone else requesting information – give a precise example of what they are looking for. Then the staff can evaluate if they that information can be generated on a regular basis.
- Chris: tone of the Commission – willing to work.

**Finance Council:** Ken

- Summarized the Tripartite meeting minutes.
- Noted that school numbers were slightly off, teachers' pay schedule is 9 months on, 3 months off, was adjusted to fit a years budget.

**Facilities:** Jason

- There was a sewer problem that backed up drains in the Church. Happened right at the new-comers social – not the most auspicious

welcome, but the crowd handled it well, being escorted to the St. Brendan house to use the facilities.

- Final audio bid came in at around \$160,000.
- Rectory inspection completed. Of note was the exterior front walk; the soil is eroding out and will damage the concrete steps if not fixed.

### **Debrief**

- **Tripartite Meeting:** Overall, went well. More action orientated than past multi-parting meetings. It was good to see everyone at one time and discuss the issues as one community.

### **Upcoming**

- **Ministry Fair:** Members will be at the table after all Masses
- **Lent:** Upcoming Soup Dinners and Stations of the Cross. Bible Study. March 18<sup>th</sup> Communal Penance Service. Lenten calendar going out in the bulletin.

### **CLOSING PRAYER and ADJOURNMENT:**

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