

SAINT BRENDAN PARISH: Pastoral Council Meeting

March 5th, 2015

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, Jason Swager

ABSENT: Reinaldo Aguilar, Chris Flynn

DISCERNING: Peggy Ross, Armando Medina, Jay Green, (absent – Robbie Holmberg)

OPENING PRAYER: Jason opened with a prayer

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

Open Microphone: None

Introduction: Introductions were made between the discerning parishioners, members and staff. A brief overview was given of what the Pastoral Council does, the logistics of meetings and liaisons, and how it serves the parish. A note was made about the confidentiality of some parts of the council meeting.

Next Meeting: The next normally scheduled meeting would have been during Holy Week. The council agreed to move to the meeting to **Wednesday April 8th at 7:30 PM.** Location to be determined.

Pastors Report

- In regards to finances, extra donations have gone toward helping with the deficient, but only a fraction – it helps, but won't resolve it. Difficult decisions still need to be made: possibilities range from pay/time cuts to staff layoffs. Budgets have already been trimmed as far as they can.

- School will be expanding the pre-K class, making use of rooms in the lower Brendan House. The class will be split into two with two teachers. Parish Staff thinks this arrangement may work out due to the different location in the House; when something similar was tried in the past, the noise from the class was disruptive to the offices.
- Chris Lunn, the school principal, will retire at the end of this year.
- In Technology, the MyParish App will be made available to the parish; folks will be available after masses to help. Tech Committee is growing.
- The Safe Environment program is being upgraded by the archdiocese. It appeared that St. Brendan was rather far behind in compliance, but that was due to a flaw in the reporting.
- Good Shepherd, Good Leaders is going well.

Eyes and Ears

- There have been no new negative remarks about the lack of financial information in the bulletin. The explanation of “pending due to illness” was better received than the “TBD” or no information at all.
- Peggy: having the finance folks available after the critical masses was helpful.
- Armando: from his experiences with different parishes, it’s common to be in deficient. Suggested that education of the parish – using visual examples (charts, graphs) and easy-to-relate to examples (heating costs this percentage of overall, etc).
- Desiree: had heard of request for more financial details. If we can find an example of what they are looking for (“more details” really is vague), then the Finance Council has a much better chance of getting the right report.
- Ken: It is hard to get the right numbers in a report without knowing what people are looking for.

LAISON REPORTS

School Commission: Desiree

- No meeting – Mid-Winter break

Finance Council: Ken

- 3 possible members discerning on.

- Audio upgrade on hold until finances are better; members will be looking to find another facility that would serve as a demo of one of the audio bids.
- There had been a request to put online giving in the bulletin.

Peace and Justice Commission: John

- Reached out to Susan. No response yet.

Worship and Spiritual Life: Linda

- Organized the Lenten Soup nights and Stations of the Cross.
- Working on Triduum scripts
- Members attended a conference on the Triduum Liturgies

Faith Formation: Brigette

- A chair was chosen: Nancy Phillips

Hispanic Commission: Reinaldo (absent, but Linda provided a report)

- Busy with Saint Brendan has Talent and the associated dinner.
- Looking into additional fund raisers
- Commission is looking to have a retreat; there are still some internal issues the Commission is dealing with and the retreat might help resolve those.

Stewardship Commission: Chris (absent, but sent report)

- No meeting this month

Facilities: Jason

- Jason missed meeting due to Mid-Winter break, but got some notes from members.
- Plumbing issue was determined to be roots in the sewer. Facilities recommended (and it was accepted) to have the city remove the trees. Tree removal was done for free, courtesy of the city – St. Brendan had to pay the plumbers bill.

Debrief

- **Ash Wednesday:** Very good turnout, much larger than normal. Website showed a large number of hits of people looking for mass times.

Upcoming

- **Triduum:** Worship and Spiritual life recommended that the congregation ring bells during the Gloria.

Parish Priorities and Ranking

- Members spent some time discussing and fine-tuning the listed priorities.
- Ranks were applied. Absent members would be queried for their input.

CLOSING PRAYER and ADJOURNMENT:

Pastoral Council closed at 9:00 with a prayer by Fr. Jim.