

SAINT BRENDAN PARISH: Pastoral Council Meeting

April 8th, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: Jason Swager opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

ATTENDING: Linda Haptonstall, Brigitte Blair, Desiree Engel, Chris Flynn, Reinaldo Aguilar, Ken Elliott, Jason Swager

ABSENT: Fr. Jim Northrop, John Bush,

DISCERNING: Armando Medina

OPENING PRAYER: Jason opened with a prayer

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

Open Microphone: None

Pastors Report (Linda in place of Fr. Jim)

(Scribe's Note: Copied nearly verbatim from Fr. Jim's written report)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here are some highlights I would like to share with you:

- Lent & Holy Week: I know you will be debriefing these items in a few minutes but I wanted to share my input. I thought our Lenten season went very well at St. Brendan parish. The Liturgies were well planned, prayerful, and our Liturgical ministers, musicians, and environment committee did a wonderful job in sharing their time and talent. I really appreciate everyone's attentiveness to the importance of Liturgy and prayer and how we are always looking to continue to grow in this important area of discipleship. I want to give a special word of thanks to Linda who worked very hard to plan and coordinate everything. It is a huge job on top of all of her other responsibilities and I appreciate all that she has done.
- Confirmation Retreat: I made my first, and hopefully not last, trip to the Treacy/Levine Center (formally "Camp Brotherhood") for our Confirmation retreat on the 28th of March. I was able to celebrate Mass and hear confessions and based on the confessions, the Holy Spirit was doing wonderful things in the lives of our young people who will be celebrating this beautiful Sacrament on the 4th of May. Please keep them in your prayers as they make their final preparations.
- Principal Search Committee: We are having our first meeting this evening, hence my absence. I have rounded up a good group of parishioners whom I believe will help us with this important

process. Please keep all of the future meetings in your prayers. The Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Department is extremely helpful with the hiring of new principals.

- Budget Challenges and Staffing: I am in the process of finalizing the painful cuts I will have to make with regards to getting our deficit under control. I will announce the restructuring next weekend at all of the Masses. I have to finalize everything with the HR department and notify the effected staff as well. I wish I had other options but understand the dire situation of the parish. I greatly appreciate everyone's prayers at this time for all of the staff and parish.
- School Auction: I don't have any final numbers at this time, but the School Auction was very successful and well-attended. Please check the school bulletin for updates.
- Marriage Enrichment Opportunity: Fr. Tom Vandenberg will be joining us over the weekend of April 24th-25 to promote a marriage enrichment opportunity he will be having in our parish on the 28th and 29th of April. This is just one step in my hopes of providing more opportunities for marriage enrichment at St. Brendan Parish. There is a bulletin insert this weekend. Please mark your calendars! He does a great job and has been involved in Marriage Encounter for many years.
- Away for Archdiocesan Business: I will be away from April 20th through April 29th for Archdiocesan business. No, I'm not going fishing

Eyes and Ears

- Brigitte: Overall, Triduum went well. Only question was why they did not have a collection at the Easter Vigil and why there were no ushers. Sid was there at the beginning, but it made Communion a little more interesting.
- Brigitte: Heard comments on the budget. People were expecting to hear something by now - so now people are thinking it must not be as bad as we thought. Knows what the numbers say and she's pointed people back to those, but without any word from Fr. Jim, people are thinking we must be doing OK. She's heard from about 10 people.
- Armando: There was congestion around the Cross on Good Friday; perhaps some manner of guiding people to-and-from the Cross next year. Slight issues with microphones and ambo lights during readings, but other than that - very good.
- Jason: Bilingual aspects of Masses went well; the worship aids are most useful and very well done. Still hearing a few grumbles from a couple older parishioners about bilingual Masses, but the majority enjoy the mix.
- Reinaldo: Reported an incident where some parishioners were crossing the Nave to get to the parking lots; Lucinda intervened, asking that they cross to the parking lots on the outside, rather than through the Nave - keeping in mind reverence for the House of God. Leading to...

- Jason: Having some issues with parishioners exiting the Nave directly in front of the procession. Linda has asked Sacristans to remind folks to wait until after the procession before exiting. (Including the next item): Maybe have a brief reminder during the homily on attitudes of reverence to the Mass and modesty in dress.
- Linda: May need to bring up dress code guidelines for Liturgical Ministers; a few cases where overly casual, less-than-revert attire is being worn.

LAISON REPORTS

Stewardship Commission: Chris

- Concern about lack of volunteer coordinator. Focus is beginning to shift from the past lacks and more on what the parish has now. Membership change may be helping that focus.
- Three goals/recommendations were made:
 - Financial transparency; information should not be so difficult to obtain, understanding security/confidentiality/privacy is an issue. Commission will check with Tony on details.
 - Fr. Jim should surround himself with professionals from the parish.
 - Would a Board of Advisors, not specific to finance, but business professionals be useful? Linda's response: Good leaders, good shepherds is focused in this area. Also, the primary goals of the Pastoral Council, the Finance Council and other commissions and councils is to act as advisors, several members which are business professions.
- Will be having a retreat this month

Hispanic Commission: Reinaldo

- Had a retreat this month. Part of the focus was to deal with internal issues and maturing as a commission.

Finance Council: Ken

- Missed last meeting

School Commission: Desiree

- In regards to finances: School gets a subsidy from the parish, also has its own tuition, donations, fund-raisers. But anything the school is short is made up by the parish.
- Accreditation in progress, mission statement being written.

- Principal search underway. Some of the attending parents were preferring to have only school parents involved in the principal search subcommittee; having parish parents was not well received.
- 3 families leaving, 3 on fence. However, little loss in the 6th grade, which is typical. Will have two Pre-K classes, using the lower St. Brendan House for the second class.
- Annual school appeal on target, church appeal for school parents behind at least 19 families.
- Roof may need to be replaced soon; \$180,000

Faith Formation: Brigitte

- No meeting

Peace and Justice Commission: (Linda, for John)

- John has not heard from Susan Delaney
- Looking for some addition members; some are discerning on.

Worship and Spiritual Life: Linda

- Focused on the Triduum Masses
- Recap of the Triduum Liturgies conference attended by some members

Facilities: Jason

- Most focus on Right to Life monument. Not yet completed; funds running low. Monument isn't matching the original plans. Drainage problem is causing a small pool to form when it rains. Facility members will review with the committee.
- Painting of handicap parking stall and parking stops

Debrief

- **Triduum:** More people at all Masses, full out to the Narthex, but not having to resort to standing along Nave perimeter. Vigil slightly more full than normal – Holy Thursday and Good Friday higher attendance than normal. Altar Servers did well
- **St. Brendan has Talent:** The dinner went very well. Although the Narthex didn't have much sitting room, the smaller area did give a closer sense of community. However, the School gym will probably be used for a repeat even so more tables can be set up. The array of dishes from countries was greater than expected. Concert was also good, but overly long. Attendees were leaving during the intermission. Next time will be shorter.

Upcoming

- **Marriage Retreat:** On 25th-26th
- **First Communion:** In May

- **Confirmation:** Also in May

CLOSING PRAYER and ADJOURNMENT:

Pastoral Council closed at 9:10PM