

SAINT BRENDAN PARISH: Pastoral Council Meeting

May 7th, 2015

ATTENDING: Linda Haptonstall, Brigette Blair, Desiree Engel, Chris Flynn, Jason Swager, John Bush

ABSENT: Fr. Jim Northrop, Reinaldo Aguilar, Ken Elliott

VISITING: Bill Nash

DISCERNING: Peggy Ross, Jay Green

CALL TO ORDER: Jason opened the meeting at 7:0 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Jason opened with a prayer

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

Open Microphone: Not exactly open mic, but Bill Nash introduced himself; chairman from the Stewardship Commission. Wanting to observe the Pastoral Council, ask questions.

LAISON REPORTS

School Commission: Desiree

- Missed last meeting
- Principal Search Committee has a number of candidates and will begin interviews starting today.

Faith Formation: Brigette

- Meeting was last night
- May need a substitute to attend the next meeting: Wednesday, June 3rd at 7PM, Parish dining room.
- **Sister Parish Committee Update**
 - Brigette is excited to go. Delegation leaves on May 30th.
 - Expecting to be several opportunities and parishes to observe.
 - Committee is feeling good about this decision, better than in the past.
 - Jay: What is the goal of the Sister Parish Committee? It's the establishment of a spiritual relationship with another parish, supporting each other in faith. Sometimes, there is a financial contribution – but that is not the central point of the relationship. If the process advances, a group may come from

Malawi to visit St. Brendan, most likely funded initially by donations, but if the relationship continues, by Parish budget.

Peace and Justice Commission: John

- Was at the Parish Potluck; looking to put on a social justice program.
- Three members possibly discerning on.
- Working with Respect Life Committee

Finance Council: Ken (via report)

- Missed last meeting

Hispanic Commission: (Linda for Reinaldo)

- Did not meet last month

Stewardship Commission: Chris

- Stewardship was wondering where the 5year plan stands in terms of progress. There is the document on the website, but it's not often updated.
- Bill: He'll get an update from Stewardship. Wondering if there is any "low hanging fruit" or easy tasks that can be dealt with.
- Looking for more social activities for the parish; the Bite of St. Brendan and St. Brendan has Talent were well received and people enjoyed them.
- Bob Walsh spoke to the Archdioces and got stats for surrounding parishes for the Annual Catholic Appeal. Was able to compare with St. Brendan.
- Bill: Pleased to see the finances – with more data – in the bulletin.
- Linda: ACA goal: about \$146K, about \$10K less than last year. Refund will go towards remodeling lower Brendan house. Volunteers would be used to paint, repair, improve kitchen, create meeting rooms, fix up bathroom. Expected to cost about \$25K. Other projects that were considered: repairs to outside lighting or fixing stained glass windows.
- In 2 years, Fr. Jim will most likely move to a new parish and much of the staff will probably change. Volunteers need to step forward now, to be make that transition smooth. The church is not the pastor or the staff – but the community.
- Where is the Leadership? It does not seem that the parish on is Fire for Christ. Jason: we – councils, commission, committees, and volunteers - are the leadership, we must lead by example. Staff is also looked to for leadership. If the community is being negative, then we need to look at ourselves first – are we setting the negative example?

- Bill: We can try to be more visible, at Masses, more welcoming. Andrew and Andrea, examples of working and building up with the youth.

Worship and Spiritual Life: Linda

- Did not meet

Facilities: Jason

- (Linda as well): Going ahead with the middle of the two audio bids – Morgan Stanly. The sound system has been acting badly.
- External lights were considered; would cost about \$17K, although that would drop to nearly \$10K after refunds.

Homework for Liaisons:

- Ask about status of GPS items. Get an update if possible, gently remind as necessary.
- Keep in mind volunteers. There are many willing volunteers, but they need something to do. That “something” needs to be specific, not generic. Listen for specific things that could be put out for volunteers.
- Keep in mind finances: is there a way a save or a way to bring in extra?

Bill – feedback:

- Stewardship finished a retreat; Linda led.
- Mentioned José and the Hispanic Commission. Pointed to survey results to show growth in that area.
- Phone-a-thon. Last three years has been cancelled due to organization failure or last minute staff absentees. Looking to change the process and get the information early.
- Welcome committee: growing to be more than single event, an ongoing ministry to the newcomers. Developing a charter, possibly partner with Hospitality.

UPCOMING:

- First Communion; over 80 kids at all masses.
- Pentecost, Ascension, Corpus Christi

DEBRIEF:

- Matrimony as a Sacrament: Good content, surprisingly well attended with about 80+ people both days. Good even for the couple high schoolers present. Fr. Thomas was a good speaker, inspiring and insightful. Even with change of venue to the nave, things went smoothly.

- Confirmation: Overall good. The bishop did change things around, which kept liturgical staff and servers hoping around and guessing, but went well. Rehearsal went well; helpful for sponsors and catechumens.

PASTOR'S REPORT (Linda in place of Fr. Jim)

Fr. Jim was working with the Principal Search Committee this evening. Linda gave some information. Most of this information pertained to the budget, which will be made public when Fr. Jim announces it.

EYES AND EARS:

Skipped this evening due to lack of time.

CLOSING PRAYER and ADJOURNMENT:

Pastoral Council closed at 9:15PM