

SAINT BRENDAN PARISH: Pastoral Council Meeting

August 6th, 2015

ATTENDING: Fr. Jim Northrop, Linda Haptonstall, Desiree Engel, Brigitte Blair, John Bush, Peggy Ross, Chris Flynn, Jay Green, Jason Swager

ABSENT: Reinaldo Aguilar

VISITING: Joyce von Feldt, Marie Hedden and several members of the Sister Parish Committee

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting started at 7:00 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: None

Sister Parish Committee: Marie, with several members of the Sister Parish Committee were present. Fr. Jim had reviewed the recommendation from the Sister Parish Committee and the Pastoral Council and approved it to form a sister parish relationship with the Parish of St. Joseph in Namalaka. Bridgette took a quick video of all involved to send to St. Joseph's. Properly attired, the covenant was signed. Fr. Jim and Bridgette – as the Pastoral Council representative – signed it.

Peggy asked what the next steps of the covenant will entail. It starts with a spiritual relationship, prayers. Continuing to education on culture, history of the parishes and people. Shared leadership experiences with visiting delegations; donations from parishioners to defray the costs for the Malawi delegation. Exchanges of communication between parishioners, possibly students. Financial donations to specific causes is possible in the future. In time, a budget line item may be added.

Mass Survey

Joyce von Feldt was in attendance for the Mass Survey portion of the meeting.

The questions were refined a little further. The opening statement was modified to be more direct. Fr. Jim explained that the proposed longer delay between Masses allowed for better community building after Mass, less rush to the next Mass. Also pointed out was that the dropping of the once-a-month Youth Mass allowed St. Brendan to move to a consistent

Mass schedule. The dropping of the intermittent Youth Mass should not be seen as a removal of it; the Youth Mass could be continued at one of the other masses.

How to get the ballots out – at two different Masses (Aug 15/16 and 29/30). Electronic ballots; Jay will put them together. Spanish translation will be sought. Use the website to reference the electronic ballots. Jason will put together an all-parishioner email list. MyParish App should be updated to reference the ballot.

Pastoral Council – 2015/2016

Jay and Chris will be switching liaison positions; Jay to Stewardship Commission, Chris to Finance Council. Desiree declined the chair position due to concerns about due to work conflicts.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- There will be no Confirmation this year as St. Brendan moves to a two-year program. This also ties in with the Youth Minister's reduced hours while the youth program stabilizes. A letter regarding this will be sent out.
- John Phillips is back in the office after his back surgery.
- Finance meeting, aiming to help with financial communications with parish and other ministries. Towards this end, having a monthly executive meeting between Fr. Jim, Stewardship, Finance and Pastoral Council chairs may happen.
- Annual Catholic Appeal is going well,
- Good Leaders Good Shepherds is going well; no break through the summer. The next class session will include St. Brendan staff, namely Linda, John Phillips (health allowing) and Brian from the School.
- School has a replacement eighth grade teacher; might also have a sixth grade teacher.

EYES AND EARS:

- Peggy reported hearing a parishioner mention that they were upset by the lack of patriotic songs on days important to the country. Fr. Jim and Linda said that such songs can – and are – played on those days as a closing song. However, Church feast days have priority and will be played. The day in question – Pentecost – is considered far more important to the Church than the national holiday that fell on the same day.
- Chair are getting dirty in the church; may be in need of a cleaning
- Jason reported that on the first Friday Adoration (which fell on a closed office day), three different parishioners were knocking on church doors to get in. Normally, the doors are unlocked by staff, but staff was on vacation that day. Although the back door was open, parishioners did not want to go around. At first, there was a question as to why, but members have noted that the back way is both poorly lit and footing unstable (gravel instead of cement). Facilities will be asked about this.

- Linda reported that there have been break-ins in the parking lot, even during daylight. This demonstrates the need to balance the security of parishioners against the openness to people coming to worship.
- Chris reported that the Planned Parent protest rally went well. She and her kids were there; it was quiet with no confrontations. Pat Ulman was there as well.

LAISON REPORTS

Life, Peace and Justice Commission: John

- There is a protest planned at the Bangor base against nuclear weapons. The commission is putting together a proposal to have an education program at St. Brendan about nuclear weapons and how Church teachings apply to it. A video called the “Tipping Point” would be featured in the education.

Finance Council: Jay

- Missed meeting, but Fr. Jim covered the highlights in his Pastor’s Report

Stewardship Commission: Chris, Brigitte

- Received a letter from a parishioner, upset that Stewardship as a Parish was not done this financial year. They are looking to respond. The reasons for it have been noted – both within ministries and with the parish, so some surprise at the update. Fr. Jim and Linda noted that even though the budget line item was discontinued this year, St. Brendan has been giving. For example, the refund from the Catholic Community Services was given to St. Vincent de Paul. Still reporting a hard time understanding financial information that was used to make that decision, Tom Gray has been by to explain. Was asking if in-house giving could be performed; it was pointed out that tithe can be directed to a particular area.
- Working on Hispanic integration, Deacon Jose is looking to get a representative onto each commission/council.
- Bill Nash will contact Jason in regards to progress on the 5 year plan.
- Wanting better communication between PC, Stewardship, Finance – also referencing the possibility of a monthly 3-way meeting with Fr. Jim and chairs.
- Reading “Stewardship: a disciples response”
- Looking at shorting the agenda, setting calendar, getting a speaker for the Stewardship talks.
- John suggested Stewardship could do a Many Gifts One Spirit retreat.

School Commission: Desiree

- No meeting last month

Faith Formation: Brigitte

- Planning for potluck
- Reading Pastoral Care for the Hispanic Ministry

Facilities: Jason

- No meeting

Worship and Spiritual Life: Peggy

- Meeting moved
- In regards to Mass survey, concerned about Youth Mass
- Asking about an early morning mass followed by confession
- Worried about locked church, how to give code but keep secure, keys, code access. Per council and staff – no good compromise yet found: still having problems with parishioners giving the code out to others or passing the keys out.
- Could Stations of the Cross be done with other local churches

Hispanic Commission: (Reinaldo absent, update from Linda)

- Arranging for CPR for hospitality
- Lady of Guadalupe, display will be in the Narthex rather than Nave, with 10pm Service,
- Prayer group will have classes on faith and Catholicism,

Technology: Jason and Linda

- A training session for ministries so they can edit web pages will occur on August 8th after morning Mass.

CLOSING PRAYER and ADJOURNMENT:

Pastoral Council closed at 9:00 PM