

SAINT BRENDAN PARISH: Pastoral Council Meeting

September 3rd, 2015

ATTENDING: Linda Haptonstall, Brigitte Blair, John Bush, Peggy Ross, Chris Flynn, Reinaldo Aguilar, Jay Green, Jason Swager

ABSENT: Fr. Jim Northrop, Desiree Engel

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting started at 7:05 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

PASTOR'S REPORT (Linda reporting for Fr. Jim)

- School has started. All teacher's positions were filled, but still short one aide's position.
- Power outage didn't impact the School or Church facilities, but there is cleanup. The Masses that weekend were affected; attendance was markedly lower.
- Diane Moran's father passed away.
- Fr. Jim is on vacation (returning a day or two after this meeting)
- Altar server training – went well, most youth are enthusiastic about it.

EYES AND EARS:

- Jay – reconfiguring the congregation at the Saturday Mass into fewer sections worked well with the reduced attendance due to the power outage.

Mass Survey

The numeric results of the Mass survey:

Mass Survey results as of September 3rd, 2015

	Paper	Online	Total Keep	Total Youth Mass	not counted
Sat 5:00 pm / Sun 8:00 am / Sun 10:00 am / Sun 12:00 pm (Spanish)	424	32	456		
Sat 5:00 pm / Sun 9:00 am / Sun 11:30 am (Spanish) / Sun 6:00 pm (Youth and Young Adult)	87	27		114	
Sat 5:00 pm / Sun 9:30 am / Sun 12:00 pm (Spanish) / Sun 6:00 pm (Youth and Young Adult)	96	25		121	
5pm Mass only	4		3		
8am Mass only	6		7		
10am Mass only	7		7		
Noon Mass only	12		12		
Spanish Mass at 11:30am (were not voting for Youth Mass, only change for Spanish Mass)	33	2	33		
Multiple times and write in's					25
Sub total	669	86	518	235	
Total Surveys		755	69%	31%	
<i>non registered</i>			73	35	
<i>non registered percentage</i>			10%	5%	

The council had these results a couple days prior and was able to discern and discuss at the meeting. The numbers speak to how people voted. The overall survey gave a more hard-core, reality-based look at what parishioners wanted. Anecdotal reports or reports from a vocal minority should be heard, but the majority of our parishioners have been silent in public forums about what they may or may not have wanted; the survey allowed them a voice. The numbers are raw data, but comments written on the paper ballots showed some opinions of the parish as well. For example: a couple ballots indicated that the families couldn't make any other times than what St. Brendan already had; changing even by a half hour would require them to go to another parish.

The council unanimously discerned to keep the 4 core Masses at their current times and dropping the Sunday Evening Youth Mass.

Joyce von Feldt wasn't able to attend, but sent along her recommendation – keep the existing 4 Masses, drop the Youth Mass.

Jason will send the recommendation to Fr. Jim.

Several members asked if the Youth Mass could be done in conjunction with an existing Mass, perhaps the 5PM Saturday. This will need to be brought up with Andrew and the Youth Ministry. This led to a question of what are the Faith Formation classes doing in the upcoming year; could there be support for having one of the normal Masses be a Youth Mass....?

Faith Formation – Upcoming

(Combined with portions of the Faith Formation liaison report)

Both Faith Formation and Pastoral Council were wanting to know the schedule and activities planned for the Faith Formation ministries – children, youth, and adult. In particular, questions about Confirmation and how children and youth might tie to a Youth Mass.

Initially proposed to have ministry leaders (Andrea – children, Andrew – youth, Linda – adult) meet with Faith Formation, then meet with Parish Council to get a brief overview and ask questions. The purpose would not be to make changes, but to be aware of what will be taught in the upcoming season. But having staff go to two separate meetings with the same presentation and possibly answer the same question seems inefficient. Brigitte will check with Faith Formation Commission to see if they could attend the next Pastoral Council meeting. That way, staff would only need to present once.

John asked – what causes our kids to go to Faith Formation (Little Disciples, LifeTeen, Edge). Question directed at members who are parents. Several viewpoints were expressed:

- Rely on the kids being interested in the program
- Some kids need to be nudged through the “would rather not” stage, others are already to the “please, I want to go” stage; parent’s involvement and support is necessary.
- A dynamic youth leader that can engage and get the kids interested enough to want to come.

Conclusion: the perfect world would involve youth wanting to come to the programs of their own accord, with supportive parents, led by youth ministers that keep them engaged and interested.

LAISON REPORTS

Stewardship Commission: Jay

- Prior obligation; unable to attend meeting

Worship and Spiritual Life: Peggy

- Discussion continued about locked door policy. Could other security measures, like cameras be used?
- Web person will be updating web page to include a photo.
- Is there an official dress code for Mass? Members of the commission had brought up that there was less-than-casual wear by parishioners, liturgical ministers, choir.
Linda: Not for the congregation, although there are guidelines. There is a dress code for liturgical ministers and effort is made to enforce it.
Reinaldo: Hispanic ministers already enforce for liturgical ministers and do speak with parishioners about inappropriate dress.
Fr. Jim already has a recommendation to talk about it, but perhaps it could include a letter to parishioners and/or ministers.

Hispanic Commission: Reinaldo

- A member has brought up a proposal to use St. Brendan facilities for a Couples for Christ retreat (Couples for Christ was described as something similar to Cursillo, but for couples – an initial retreat with ongoing weekly/monthly meetings at members homes). No money being sought, just use of the facilities for one day of a weekend. They have a proposal going to Fr. Jim. Looking at a November time frame.
- CPR classes have been scheduled for the Hispanic Hospitality members
- Picnic volunteers are getting organized and will be talking with Tom Gray

Finance Council: Chris

- No meeting this month

Faith Formation: Brigitte

- One new member discerned on
- Talked about TV special on Pope
- Looking at the Faith Formation assessment in combination with GPS goals
- Year of mercy: make more mention of it
- Have another round of MyParish App training/announcements; will St. Brendan continue to use it.
- Recommend having Faith Formation staff present to discuss upcoming plans (see earlier item for more details)

Life, Peace and Justice Commission: John

- No information

School Commission: Desiree (absent)

- No meeting last month

Facilities: Jason

- No meeting last month

Technology: Jason

- A training session for ministries went well.
- New ideas coming in for the website.

Upcoming:

- Pastoral Council Social: Will be Sunday, September 13th at 3PM, at the Bush's home
9237 NE 191st St, Bothell, WA 98011
Format is Potluck style
- Parish picnic is coming up!
After upcoming Masses, signup for food to bring
Daycare will be provided
Chris: should ask people to bring lawn chairs

Debriefs:

- **Bishop Montfort's visit**
Dinner went well; Sister Parish Committee did all the serving
About 70-80 people present. Marie talked about the visit.
Bishop talked about Malawi and answered questions from parishioners for about 40 minutes. Some positive prospects for more members of the committee.

Pastoral Council – 2015/2016

Brigette has volunteered for a co-chair position, but requested holding off "official" installment until the full council had a chance to discern on it.

CLOSING PRAYER and ADJOURNMENT:

Pastoral Council closed at 9:10 PM