

# **SAINT BRENDAN PARISH: Pastoral Council Meeting**

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

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

**ABSENT:** Reinaldo Aguilar

**VISITING:** Members of Life Peace and Justice Commission and well as Faith Formation Commission

**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:**

**Life Peace and Justice:**

Susan brought up the proposal. To increase awareness of Catholic Teachings on Social Justice:

1. In the Kiosk, use the empty area with the Right to Life committee to post various articles on the various teachings.
2. Use the Bulletin to include small articles
3. A focus on Catholic teachings in regards to Nuclear Propagation. First, use the library before and between one weekend of Masses to show a short slide show. Follow up with two Saturday evenings where half of a film will be shown with following discussions.

Pastoral Council following discussion (came later in the meeting, but mentioned here for continuity):

- Fr. Jim approved the first two parts – Kiosk and Bulletin usage.
- PC made a positive recommendation to Fr. Jim in regards to the third point – the presentation, with three provisions:
  - Work with Diane to make sure that the presentations didn't happen on important Mass days
  - Double check with the Library Committee and Andrea to make sure there was no conflict with the usage of the Library
  - Have the presentation slide show approved by staff.

## **Faith Formation Commission** – Summary of upcoming from staff

- Fr. Jim (for Andrew Krieger):
  - Good core team for Edge and LifeTeen.
  - Will have a youth Focused Mass on the 3rd Saturday, starting the 11<sup>th</sup>. Will be similar in format to the original Youth Mass – music, youth participation.
  - Confirmation will be going to a 2 year program with this year being the starting year, then rolling like First Reconciliation/Communion. Youth wanting to be confirmed this year will need to attend to be confirmed at another parish, such as Blessed Theresa, Holy Family. So far, at least 2 from St. Brendan.
  - Due to issues in translation, the Confirmation message given to the Hispanic community was poorly received; they thought that there would be no Confirmation at all. The misunderstanding has been corrected.
  - Young Adults (Linda): Almira Davis is posting to Facebook. Some of the activities: rotating Holy Hour with social mixer followed by meals, outside activities (hiking), mostly for parishes in the Eastside Deanery
- Andrea for Children and Family:
  - Baptism preparation occurring in both English and Spanish
  - Nursery at 8 and 10 - 3 to 4 kids, don't have 5 and noon nursery due to lack of volunteers
  - Used to have Little Disciples at 10 AM Sunday in the school with 8 volunteers. Tried changing the time to match Children's Liturgy. For the little ones – a focus on Bible friends. For the older kids, a focus on the readings. The time change has resulted in less volunteers, but higher attendance by the children.
  - What was Pathways before, is now Disciples Club. Curriculum/prayers are drawn from Archdiocesan recommendation combined with another book called Creimous/We Believe.
  - First Reconciliation and Communion: Once a week for 5 weeks; families from disciples, school, and home school.
  - Last year, no children over 7 baptized. This year, do have some - combining the family (RCIA) and having the children also in the 5 weeks.
  - Noted that kids looking forward to altar servers, but having to recruit adults for the 8AM

Question from Jay: any interaction between Edge and Disciples? Nothing formal yet but possibilities, maybe at the 5th grade level where there is greatest overlap.
- Linda for Adult Faith Formation:
  - Handout with specifics in the 6 main areas
    - Knowledge of the Faith: Scripture studies and prayer meetings, RCIA, Adult confirmation, Hispanic multi-generational (whole family) Friday night.

- Liturgical Education: Training for Liturgical ministries, getting confirmed youth involved in Mass, post-Communion kids as altar servers, Marriage Prep
- Moral Formation: March for Life, Spiritual Adoption, and the works of the Life Peace and Justice commission
- Teaching to Pray: Year of Mercy activities, Adoration, Lenten Stations of the Cross.
- Education for Community Life: Variety of communication methods: Website, Facebook, presentations.
- Education for Mission: Malawi Sister Parish is a prime example, Rice Bowl program

Question from Mary Winters: Could there be classed for adults based on the encyclicals, just not during the summer when attendance would be low.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT**

- Picnic went well - volunteers appreciated
- Faith formation programs starting up
- Adding Confessions on Wed 6-7, Thursday morning after Mass including Saturday, by appointment
- School off to a good start - teaching weekly including video and song - requested topics from the students. Some of the topics: near death experiences, same sex relationships, engagement with the Mass, the bible and reading it.
- Brian Bradish - meeting every week. Went over last year's survey results. Focusing on getting school involved in the church and trying to get families back into Mass. Also suggested to blog about activities to school parents  
Desiree: could Church volunteer time cover school volunteer hours?
- Good leaders, good shepherds - had the staff with him this time (Brian, John), good speakers
- Updating the website and working on communication in general
- 5th wed potluck wasn't as well attended as in the past
- Mass counts in October; going up slightly
- Mass survey, no apologies to some of the public responses. Youth mass will be done on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat
- Dennis Vasquez funeral

### **EYES AND EARS:**

- John – In regards to the Mass survey feedback, hadn't heard about the 3rd Sat Mass Youth Mass. Recommends that we get that message out from Fr. Jim. Brigitte seconded - get the news out now...
- Desiree - no registration form received for LifeTeen, but would advocate for a more open-door policy. If registration needed, use a per-night signup, texting would better

invite (Linda suggested SendHub, which the Parish has a subscription to) Jason suggested a compromise; open door (sign in), as the new ones come in, Andrew follows up?

- Jason - Confirmation class confusion was going around; tonight's summary from Faith Formation staff definitely cleared that up.
- Jay - Fire drill during Mass? Usher's upcoming meeting might be a good place to bring this up.
- Peggy - Does the Church have a process to handle traumatic events – building disaster, attack, and natural disaster? Linda/Fr. Jim plan in formation and Arlene Sullivan is helping formulate plan. Need: how to help kids in the aftermath, Brian principal will help.

#### **Debriefs:**

- Picnic - well organized, good planning, good volunteers.
- Pastoral Social - went well, thank you to the Bush's for opening their home to us.

#### **Liaison Reports:**

Due to the hour and little time, liaison reports have been minimized to the important items:

- **Hispanic** (Linda): CPR for ushers
- **Faith Formation** (Brigette) – Needs a substitute for Wed Oct 6, 6:30-7:30, Desiree will fill in.
- **School** (Desiree) – may send a report; will cover next week.
- **Stewardship** (Jay) – Commission is preparing a response to parishioner's letter about Stewardship as Parish. Parishioner had sent curt email, about lack of support from Faith Formation, miscommunications causing problems, finances,
- **Finances** (Chris), possible shortfall, repercussions from unbalanced school budget over-projections,
- **Worship and Spiritual Life** (Peggy): can wait,
- **Life, Peace and Justice** (Jay): proposal that came earlier this evening
- **Facilities** (Jason): Take to other councils and commissions – is there a continued use for the Parish bus and are there drivers for it.

#### **CLOSING PRAYER and ADJOURNMENT:**

Pastoral Council closed at 9:10 PM with a prayer by Fr. Jim.