

Minutes of Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

October 18, 2018

Present: Fr. David Trask, Deacon Thomas Daw, Linda Butler, Jackie Findish, Susan Hanko, Sharon Miller, Daniel Steinacker

Kathy Gulish (secretary)

Absent: Kathy Schreiber, Lori Taylor

Dan led the formation prayer at the beginning of the meeting.

MINUTES: The minutes from the September meeting were approved as submitted.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

a. Fr. Trask reported that a bolt had sheared off on the bell. It is in the process of being repaired, but since there are few companies that do those types of repairs, Fr. Trask was not sure how long it would take to get the bell fixed.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Parish Council discernment process

Linda reported that at least three parishioners had expressed an interest in filling out a questionnaire to be considered for one of the two seats on Parish Council for the term starting in 2019. Council members commented that although they had stayed after Mass on the designated dates to answer questions regarding being on Council, no one had approached them to make any inquiries or to express interest. Linda said that she has had to contact parishioners with whom she is familiar to ask them about the possibility of serving on Council. Questionnaires could still be turned in prior to the November meeting so Council members were encouraged to continue to contact parishioners whom they felt might be potential candidates.

b. Ministry Fair

The Ministry Fair is scheduled for the weekend of November 10 & 11, following the Masses. Thus far, there has not been a great deal of response from the various ministries indicating they would participate. Council members were asked to directly contact those groups with which they were familiar to spread the word about the Ministry Fair and to encourage involvement. There will also be an announcement about the Ministry Fair in the bulletin.

c. Welcoming parishioners to the church

There was a discussion regarding how we might better welcome new and potential parishioners to our parish. Sharon had previously recounted an example of potential new parishioners who chose to join elsewhere because they felt they were not sufficiently welcomed at Sacred Heart. Council members pointed out that our ushers do greet people at the door as they come in for Mass, and both Father and Deacon stand at the doors to greet people as they are leaving Mass. One issue that came out during the discussion was that with the influx of people who may belong at other

parishes but are attending Mass at Sacred Heart, it is often difficult to discern if someone is a new parishioner, a potential parishioner, or even one who is a member at Sacred Heart but remains unobtrusive and thus is not readily recognized. Although Council members wondered what members of another parish had done that made it seem more welcoming, there were some suggestions for actions we could take:

- In addition to our Transitions Board, it was suggested that we might also put a Transitions section in each newsletter to introduce new parishioners, accompanied by a picture, so that others would know whom to welcome.
- With the transitions that have occurred in parish staff as well as parishioners that have joined or left the parish, the current pictorial directory is outdated. It was suggested that a new directory might be published next year, as that would be five years from the previous one. Deacon Tom proposed also including in the directory those who may belong at another parish but attend Mass regularly at Sacred Heart. Deacon Tom recommended that we get this on the calendar for next year as soon as possible since putting together a new directory involves a great deal of time and work.
- Dan suggested publishing, separately, a business directory. He emphasized that Sacred Heart would not be endorsing anyone listed in the business directory but that it would provide a handy guide if people wanted to patronize businesses owned by parishioners. It would be a way of letting people know of parishioners who have businesses, the services provided by those businesses, and contact information for them.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Parish Council agenda/minutes

Previously, an inquiry had been made about giving parishioners access to what had been discussed at a Council meeting in a more timely manner. Minutes from one Council meeting can not be posted until they have been amended and/or approved at the next Council meeting. Therefore, there is always a lag between the time that the meeting is held and the time that the formal summary of the meeting can be made available. Father suggested publishing, after a Council meeting, an informal summary/agenda of what had been discussed. Another suggestion was to post the meeting agenda the weekend prior to a Council meeting and then post the minutes from the previous month following their approval. Council meetings are open to parishioners, and if a parishioner saw an item that he/she wanted to hear being discussed or wanted to learn more about, he/she could attend the next Council meeting. Susan said that she had some sheet protectors she would donate to put the minutes in for displaying them on/near the bulletin board.

b. Mass time for Saturday, December 8

Saturday, December 8 is a holy day of obligation. The Vigil Mass will be at St. Patrick's on Friday evening at 6:30. However, Fr. Trask asked Council members their opinions on what time to hold the Saturday morning Mass. It was decided that Mass should be at 8:45 a.m. so that the time was consistent with the regular morning Mass times.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Finance:**

Although Finance Council had not met yet, due to its quarterly schedule, Father reported that the system for making donations through electronic fund transfers was nearly ready to be launched. Father and Deacon shared some details of the system, which is basically ready to go as soon as it has been introduced and explained to parishioners. The cost to the parish of doing the online/electronic donations is a flat fee of \$0.30 per user, which is minimal compared to the cost of mailing the weekly envelopes. Deacon explained that parishioners can set up their online donation schedule however they choose; weekly, monthly, etc. The parishioner would get an email when funds are taken from his/her account. Deacon pointed out that some people use the envelopes to donate funds to specific accounts, such as capital improvement and maintenance, in which the money stays primarily in the parish. If people wanted to continue to designate one or both of those categories when making electronic donations, they would just have to look for the categories when setting up their donations and decide if they wanted weekly or monthly transfers. For parishioners who might feel uncomfortable not putting something into the collection basket each week, Father showed a reusable card that could be available at the door for parishioners to pick up as they come in to Mass and drop into the collection basket. The card does not identify the parishioner; it just states that the person has made an electronic donation. If a parishioner is uncomfortable with or unable to do the online donation, he/she would still have the option of using the envelopes instead. Father indicated that, at some point, he would like to have some computers and/or tablets available, with people who could help guide parishioners through the set-up process.

- **LIFT:**

Dan reported that they have are continuing to read their book and share thoughts on it.

- **PSR:**

Jackie reported that Anne indicated everything seemed to be going well. The students are doing the rosary and their confessions. Fr. Trask has met with the students in the upper grades. A couple of the teachers have discussed developing some type of informal report card to send home that would indicate attendance, etc. There has also been some discussion of changing the textbook the teachers use so Anne will be reviewing those.

- **Spiritual Life:**

Susan reported that the mission will be March 10, 11, and 12 with Fr. Stalla. As the dates get closer, they will continue discussing details regarding the mission. Fr. Trask discussed his lessons on the liturgy that he has done at St. Pat's and would like to do at Sacred Heart. The lessons would be in the bulletin the week following the liturgy and would encompass "Why we do what we do." They are planning to follow up on these lessons in January with Bishop Barron's series on "The Mass."

- **Newsletter**

Sharon reported that the newsletter is out. Most people have received it by now, and she has heard comments about how nice it looked.

The next meeting of Parish Pastoral Council will be November 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the education building. Formation prayer: Susan