

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

August 25, 2015

Minutes

Present: Damian Barta, Derrick Blakley, Cynthia Judge, Sheila Hebein, Betsy Quinn, Dan Vicencio, and Fr. Mike Ahlstrom

Absent: Theresa Gilbert-Buckman, Deb Evans, Blanca Lule and Torrick Ward

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Opening Prayer – Derrick Blakley offered the opening prayer.

Minutes of the July 28, 2015 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Derrick B and seconded by Damian Barta. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Parish Update - Fr. Mike gave an update on parish activities:

- It has been a busy summer with a large number of parish activities.
- The Pastor Transition committee has already met a couple of times this summer.
- Fr. Mike noted that he has had a great response to his weekly Parish Question Program.
- There is ongoing construction in the rectory - with a new bathroom and other necessary additional features that are required on the upper floors.

Pastor Transition - Cynthia Judge is co-chair of the Pastor Transition Team (PTT) and spoke about the process. The PTT has met twice so far this summer. The members of the PTT have been reading a series of books on the Pastor Transition process with respect to parish leaders, parish staff, and pastor candidates. The PTT would function not only to lead the parish, staff, and pastor candidates through the process, but also would assist with preparation and orientation of the new pastor. Cynthia noted that Fr. Michael Knotek, secretary of the Priest Placement Board, would be meeting with the PTT at their next meeting on September 23, 2015 at 7PM. The PTT is planning to have a series of meetings for parishioners to inform them about the process. In addition, as in the past, a large group meeting would be part of the input process to the Priest Placement Board. The small group (10 or less) meetings will be facilitated by parishioners and the PPC members were asked to consider being facilitators. Questions for consideration will be published before and Fr Mike will devote his column in the bulletin the week before to the small group session. These meetings will be held after all the Masses the weekend of September 26/26, 2015.

Parish Transformation Update:

Mass Survey –Sheila H. gave an update about the Mass Survey group. Since Parish Transformation a lot of time and energy has been devoted to looking at the Mass Schedule at St. Nick's. The group will be meeting again on Wednesday, August 26. The group will be exploring ways that various Mass schedule proposals can be shared with the parish at large. The PPC asked that the Mass Survey Group develop proposal(s) and rationale as we move forward.

Mission Trip – The Mission Trip Report was given last Saturday, August 22 after the 4:30 Mass. Damian B. was present and gave a short report on the presentation given by the participants on the Mission Trip. There were many useful lessons learned and the trip seemed to be very successful.

Youth Ministry - Damian and Betsy gave an update on youth ministry. A Newsletter and more focused activities were discussed. Some youth ministry activities are being revived. Bridges between age groups need to be developed and speaking with families about the "how's" and "why's" of youth ministry. It is anticipated that this year, middle school youth will be contacted to try to get them involved in youth activities. Betsy Q. noted there needs to be a vision of youth ministry from pre-k to high school. Possible collaborations with St Mary's would also be an option.

New Business – Damian gave a short report about the meeting that was held after the 900AM Mass on August 23. Mental illness and incarceration were discussed. A group of parishioners relayed experiences about how mental illness impacts incarceration.

Next PPC Meeting – The next meeting of the PPC will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Mike offered the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.