

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

September 27, 2016

Minutes

Present: Kevin Axe, Damian Barta, Derrick Blakley, Deb Evans, Sheila Hebein, Cynthia Judge, Betsy Quinn, Fr. Joe Tito and Dan Vicencio

Absent: Jose Moreno

Minutes – The minutes of the August 23, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Damian B. had one correction – the date of the Youth Ministry Family meeting date is October 4th, 2016 and not the 6th as reported in the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Deb E and seconded by Derrick B. They were unanimously approved.

Opening Prayer: Betsy Q offered the opening prayer.

Parish Updates – To Teach Who Christ Is - Fr. Tito noted that the core team has been expanded to include more parishioners. There was also a discussion at the meeting about how to expand the outreach to more families – especially new families and families of young children. The emphasis would be on inviting more people to participate rather than on the specific amount of money they could pledge. There will be a parish-wide reception in October.

Music Director Position Update – The Music Director position has been posted on multiple sites. John Schuchert has been doing a great job with organizing the music ministry.

Youth Ministry- The Evanston Youth Ministry kickoff for parents will be held on October 4, 2016. The parishes that will be participating are: St. Nicholas, St. Mary, St. Athanasius, Sheil, St. Lambert, St Peter and St. Joan of Arc. The opening Youth Mass will be held at St. Mary's on Sunday, October 9, 2016. The idea of having a "traveling" Youth Mass is being discussed. There was also discussion about conducting focus groups to help direct activities of Youth Ministry.

Other Issues – The **sound system** in church has been improved, but there are still "dead" areas in the Church. Discussion of sound checks and volunteers to handle the soundboard would help to optimize the sound system in various areas of the Church.

Annual Staff Meeting with Bishop Kane - was held this week. Staff also met with members of Bishop Kane's office who are responsible for helping local parishes to meet their collective needs.

Pope John XXIII School Issues – it was agreed that members of the PPC would take out an ad in the School Directory – Cynthia J will handle this and PPC members will pay her directly.

Lutheran-Catholic Reformation Report: Sheila H gave a report on the progress of these activities. She received a request for funding (\$650), but this amount may be decreased if additional churches participate. She also pointed out that the PPC does not allocate funds, but can offer support of the programs. Starting on October 2, a series of Sunday afternoon presentations on the Catholic Lutheran Dialogue will be held at St. Nicholas in Oldershaw Hall. Everyone has received all the print materials put out by this group.

Green Team – Sheila reported that the Green Team will attend our October PPC meeting to discuss Laudato Si and to ask for our support infusing this into the life of our religious community.

Fr. Joe's Installation – Cynthia reported that the installation Mass and reception went very well. It was well attended and there was great participation by many members of the Parish community.

Mass at St. Nicholas – Cynthia indicated that several people who have young children raised concerns about the length of our Masses. Some ways to “streamline” Masses were discussed. The Liturgy Council could be engaged in this conversation.

Parish Pastoral Council Membership – Sheila noted that new members should be considered. Some members have placed their names for consideration. Fr. Joe has met many parishioners, but has not yet had an opportunity to consider those he would consider for the PPC. Sheila will review the guidelines for PPC that were developed by Fr. Bill and work with Fr. Joe on this for the next meeting. Fr. Joe also suggested that various PPC members could take responsibility for being in touch with the various Parish Ministries as a way of keeping open communication between parish groups and the PPC. A discussion of potential groups was discussed.

New Business -Baptisms - There was a discussion on how we could better incorporate Baptisms in the course of the Mass. One possibility discussed was to have a simple blessing during Mass and have the actual Baptism after Mass and those who wanted to stay could do so.

Pumpkin Patch – This fundraiser will require a lot of volunteers – it will have to be staffed from 10 am to 8 pm for 2 weeks (October 14–31.) PPC members were encouraged to sign up online to help. This fundraiser will benefit Youth Ministry.

CLOSING PRAYER: Derrick B offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

