

Pastoral Council Meeting Summary
St. Teresa of Calcutta
September 15, 2018

In attendance: Rev. Marcin P. Pluciennik, Steve Surprenant, Matt Ryan, Evan Shaw-Mumford, Kate Deasy, Linda Bouchie, Toni Mazurek, Joan Gleason, Marianne Policastro, Carol Kulpa, Nancy Bojarski, Dorothy Brindisi, Dick Borden, and Kelly Knotts

I. Welcome and Opening Prayer

- The meeting commenced at 9:00 AM (Location: St. Bartholomew – Father Hussey Hall)

- Steve offered a quiet prayer for the Opening Prayer

II. Pastoral Council Meeting Summary Review The meeting summary of St Teresa of Calcutta Pastoral Council (June 9, 2018) was accepted as circulated.

III. Old Business

- No old business

IV. New Business

a. Parishioner Suggestions/Comments – no feedback

b. The Eucharist

i. Kelly raised a concern of people not being reverent during communion at mass. Suggest more reverence, re-teaching, keeping this part of the mass special.

ii. Fr. Marcin raised the question – why are people coming to church, redirect back to Jesus, loss of sense of sin in the US (everyone goes to communion), in most parishes the people teaching religion don't have formal education in religion, to combat this, going forward, each month will have different topic at masses

iii. Father questioned if people are preparing for Eucharistic, ie. Confession, act of contrition, fasting...

iv. Young people are seeking to be holy but are looking at it in different ways

v. From the parish council recommendation to begin education consider inserting in bulletin "how to receive and prepare for communion", there also is a teaching moment during Eucharistic which could be used

c. Sex Abuse Scandal – since 2002 but still mortified by the latest news and it may not be over yet, similar investigations are starting in other states and countries, it is beyond the USA but all over the world. People shared feelings and raised concerns over the approach, the magnitude, the dialog with other people, the secrecy, the bishops who are still in place, the lack of understanding and advancement of leaders, feeling it is hard to handle, the statistics on the seminarians, the voice of the victims and their thoughts and feelings. Beyond the church people are discouraged, stories are horrible, also need an understanding there is a bigger issue in society (CEO, Congress, Clergy...). Problem is deeper than the catholic church.

i. Questions were raised: How does this test our faith and challenge us? What about people we don't know who are here in this parish? what about people leaving because we aren't addressing?

- ii. Fr. Marcin meets regularly meets with 4 victims in the archdiocese. Fr. Marcin will invite one victim to meet with council. To understand better the victim needs. Need to find the tool to for the people who were abused in the church, opening the wounds again for the victims can be hard, there are new tools today to address today
 - iii. Bring morality to the center. It is hard to preach with what we know.
 - iv. Clericalism – “elitism” to be a priest ordained and viewed above the law, had to make them happy or were identified as not a good candidate. Bishops weren’t policing themselves. Didn’t always have processes in place to help.
 - v. Reminder to put this in the historical context. Society and culture changed in the last 50 years.
 - vi. Steve shared an education paper on the facts for reference.
- d. Updates from Fr. Marcin
- i. Youth Masses will be moved to St. Bart’s Church, they will be a little different, shorter masses with a speaker on same subject. Steve will speak in October and speaking of the mission of the parish. Mass will remain at 5pm.
 - ii. Fr Patrick will return December 1st. Reminder, in 4 years, we will have 8 less priests in the Deanery. Need more aggressive plan to prepare.
 - iii. If you hadn’t noticed, there were many projects completed over the last few months. Making the physical space better and programs more effective.
 - iv. Father provide sincere appreciation for the work of Kathy Sinnamon. She has credentials to lead the religious programs (masters). She has done a big job. She puts her heart and head into the programs.
 - v. A few rumors were clarified:
 1. Kathy Sheridan has moved to the school for a full-time job.
 2. There are no monitors or recorders in the offices. This had been a rumor circulating.
 - vi. There was discussion on the ministers in the church. Scheduling, showing up or how they feel about serving. Many other services are now paid for. If we had a bigger pool of ministers, the load could be spread and not a burden. Things being considered are having communion under only one species rather than Body/Blood. Confirming people on the schedule still plan on serving, on line scheduling. This will be addressed in some way but not sure how. The issue is not unique to one mass.
 - vii. We will be selling some property which was given by St. Bridget to St. Bartholomew to build a church. The majority of it is wet lands.
 - viii. For the collections and how we are doing financially, look at the quarterly for a more accurate reflection rather than the weekly. We are doing well compared to other parishes. The numbers are monitored regularly. We have also seen a few parishioners who died who were contributing significantly.
 - ix. Parish picnic is under discussion, considering having one before it gets too cold.
 - x. Another topic was raised regarding the Flag. Is it possible to do more with the flag for the national holidays and include the patriotic songs?

V. Education Component - no educational component at this meeting

VI. **Closing Prayer** We adjourned the meeting at 10:30 am, with a prayer. Some left to see the memorial plaque on the flag.

Future Meetings:

Next meeting is planned for November 10, 2018

January 12, 2019 (snow date January 19, 2019)

March 9, 2019

May 18, 2019

September 14, 2019

(All meetings are held from 9:00am to 10:30am in the Parish Education and Meeting Center at St. Bartholomew Church.)