

**Church of the Resurrection
Pastoral Council Meeting
Minutes of November 18, 2015**

Attendance

Present: Father Tom Dragga, Terry Battaglia, Lisa Frey, Christa Bomeli, Marcia Catalano, Bethany Koenig, Barbara Long, Dennis Olsheski, Mark Olszewski, Mary Grace Poidomani, Dotty Smercina

Absent: Mark Altstadt, Dottie Eidam, Kimberly Ensign, Dorie Ijams, Rick Ijams, Marty Motsco, Don Rynbrandt

Minutes of October 21, 2015 were approved

Faith Sharing

Dotty Smercina led Faith Sharing with the reading of John 18:33b-37 followed by council comments.

Council Constitution Review

Mary Grace Poidomani led council's discussion about Constitution sections that needed revision. Dennis Olsheski, Barbara Long and Christa Bomeli volunteered to work on the document as a committee and report back to Council at the January meeting with proposed changes. It was also mentioned that the Constitution should be reviewed every three years so that there would always be a person on council that had worked on the previous changes, if any.

Re-membering in Year of Mercy

Father Tom presented a visual program of bringing individuals back into the Catholic Church they once attended. There would be a team of 4-6 people who are compassionate listeners, non-judgmental, and preferably who have had similar experiences. The environment would encourage listening to their stories of alienation, hurt and pain while reaching out with love and concern. The program would provide an opportunity to remember their Catholic roots and also to express in a safe place why they left.

Invitations would go out to individuals no longer involved in the Church based on parishioners offering names to be contacted. The initial meeting would be social, would serve as an introduction and there would be several other gatherings to follow. Advent and Lent are good times for this program because people tend to re-connect most often at Christmas and Easter.

Proceeding with this idea would entail 1) consensus from council 2) targeting team members 3) targeting demographics and 4) determining the time of year. Council consented to undertaking this program.

Year of Mercy

Lisa Frey handed out a "Word Cloud" rendition of a hand composed of words pertaining to mercy. The hope is that something of this nature would be used as a parish logo for the coming year: perhaps decals on doors or magnets on refrigerators. The year of mercy will be opened with a ritual beginning the weekend of December

12-13. The congregation will gather in Trivison Hall and process into the worship space for Mass. There will be scripture readings, petitions and singing refrains.

Advent Examination of Conscience

Father Tom plans on providing a section in the church bulletin regarding an Advent Examination of Conscience. This will be done in preparation for the Communal Penance Service scheduled for Wednesday, December 2nd. The article hopes to encourage those who have not been to the sacrament for awhile and to provide guidance for an examination of conscience. Considerations will include such concerns as negative speech, prejudices, hatred; materialism; over-reliance on social media; lack of human connection; and the use of reflection and appreciation of “waiting” during Advent.

Revisit of Parish Story Telling Night

Mary Grace Poidomani commented on the fine job done by Rick Krivanka and asked council if there was anything they would like to follow up on at this time. Given council’s full agenda, council declined.

Comments from Pastoral Team

Father Tom commented on the parish receiving a donation of “Rediscover Jesus,” a book that will be given to every family household at Christmas. Church communication through e-mail and Blast is growing and Father encourages all to use the APP. The selection committee is in the final stages of hiring a music director.

Terry Battaglia mentioned all the activities the youth are involved with this coming holiday season: Thanksgiving Mass; Polar Express help; PSR Breakfast in Bethlehem; high school reaching out to those in need; caroling at Stratford Commons and the Live Nativity.

Lisa Frey remarked on her Scripture Study Series on the theme of Mercy in the Jubilee Year. There will be three Thursday night sessions: December 3, 10 and 17.

Roundtable Discussion

Both Dotty Smercina and Barbara Long commented on the impact of the photos placed around the windows of the church. These photos depict deceased family members and friends of our parishioners and will be present through the month of November in remembrance of All Souls.

Dennis Olsheski would like to have follow-ups to people’s suggestions as to an interest or not.

Marcia Catalano requested volunteers for the Giving Tree sorting day, December 7th, 9:00 AM.

Mark Olszewski mentioned a possible group formation for the 30-something parishioners.

Closing Prayer

Closing prayer was offered by Dennis Olsheski.

Next Meeting

The Council will reconvene 7:00PM, Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Faith Sharing will be offered by Christa Bomeli

Closing prayer will be offered by Barbara Long