

September 21, 2016
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Upper Room
7 – 9 PM

- Attendance
 - Present: Mark Altstadt, Terry Battaglia, Christa Bomeli, Jante Cardamone, Macia Catalano, Fr. Tom Dragga, Kimberly Ensign, Lisa Frey, Bethany Koenig, Barb Long, Robyn Manchick, Marty Mostco, Dennis Olsheski, and Mark Olszewski.
 - Excused: Dottie Eidam
- Call to Order – Marty Motsco
Marty called the meeting to order at 7:01pm
- Attendance/ Review of Minutes - Christa Bomeli
Christa presented sign-up sheet for Opening and Closing prayer for the entire year. No meeting minutes need to be approved as it was the first meeting of the year.
- Faith Sharing : Marcia Catalano read the Gospel from Luke 16:19-31
Marcia reflected on “what does this Gospel tell you?” Janet reflected that you can’t wait until the end to repent and need to start well before the end. Barb reflected that it is a final judgment and Abraham is a stern father. Everything is here so there is no need for someone from the dead to come back. Fr. Tom reflected on the stark contrasts and opposites portrayed. Marcia reflected that it shows the existence of both heaven and hell. Mark O reflected that the last line seems to be setting us up for more. Barb reflected that the rich man may be showing compassion for his brothers. Others reflected that maybe he’s hedging his bets. Kimberly reflects is there always a time for redemption. Barb reflected about how the poor man ended up with the riches in the end.
- Review of PPC Procedures/Way of Proceeding – Marty Motsco (10 min)
Marty reviewed “Our Way of Proceeding” and went through the roles and duties of the PPC members. Marty also went through the expectations of our meetings, how the agendas are set and how parish commissions interact with the PPC. Decision making is done through consensus. No questions were asked.
- Evaluation of Parish Service Day – Marty Motsco (5 min)
A survey was available after the dinner. Mark A mentioned that while a fun and great idea, he did not feel helpful or pertinent to Rescue Village due to the activities we were given. Bethany loved how everyone had a great attitude and excited to help at the Chagrin Falls Community Park. Marcia felt like there were many positive things such as getting to know other

Council year: 2016-2017

parishioners and getting outside of our own community. She felt like the send-off was fabulous so that everyone could see each other and how many were involved, and that the prayer service and name tags were great. Robyn had a lot of fun making the sandwiches for St. Malachi, but would have loved to have actually served. She also mentioned how wonderful it was to get to know other parishioners and how wonderful it was to see other service in action by seeing what St. Malachi does. Marty enjoyed ending with mass and pot-luck and having everyone involved. Janet was at Jennings hall, it was rough start as they tried to figure out what to do with the volunteers. She enjoyed doing the craft and getting to talk with the residents and the residents loved the children. It would be great for other families with children to know that the kids would be very welcomed at Jennings. Again, it was a lot of great positive connections on all levels. Lisa mentioned that the invitation to get involved the other 51 weeks of the year was implied. Barb mentioned that some are going back to Hiram House as a continuation. Suggestions for next year: Marcia – a more definitive definition of the expectations that the locations had for the volunteers. Fr. Tom reflected that many organization do not have a big staff and do not always know ahead of time what they need until they need it. Signups didn't go as smoothly as they could have as some people's signups were lost and there was some confusion. Fr. Tom would like to know if a 3 hour time frame be more reasonable and having a lunch potluck instead of mass and potluck dinner at night? Bethany mentioned that more would participate in the meal if it was closer to the end of the service time conclusion. Robyn agreed. Janet suggested that there was more information on the times of the service locations for families to plan.

- Feedback on "An Evening with Paul Turner" – Marty Motsco (5 min)

Mark A asked what the purpose was and Fr. Tom stated that it was to give liturgical ministers an overview of the liturgy and to inspire them to continue that ministry. Mark A was disappointed in the talk based on that explanation. Marty was not disappointed and felt like she learned things but expected more on what the roles of a liturgical minister was. However, it came out deeper. Marcia mentioned that it was quite difficult to hear him speak. Mark O said it was interesting to see how to focus the liturgy in different aspects, but was lost when he got technical. It was cerebral and scholarly instead of instructive. Marcia was wondering why we feel like we didn't know what to do as was explained in the talk in all instances. Mark A was hoping for more on Vatican 3 and less on the rules of what it is. Resurrection is more about the spirit of the liturgy and less on the technical aspects. Resurrection welcomes all and did not feel like all were welcomed at the talk. Lisa was also disappointed and was hoping for more than an academic discussion on the details. Mark A did not feel like there were any welcoming parts and that it was more about these are the rules. Janet felt bad that she didn't know all the rules presented. Marcia agrees with Mark A about the rules approach and makes her wonder about the next 40 years and why are we losing so many people. Terry felt like it was more about the rules for the priest. Marty felt it was difficult to bring so many different parishes there and ideas and have that relate to the speaker. Everyone was pleased by the attendance. Fr. Tom felt like he was speaking more to the tradition instead of the rules.

Council year: 2016-2017

- Feedback on PPC Retreat on August 20th – Marty Motsco (5 min)
Mark A enjoyed Alice leading and the ice breaker to get to know the others in the group. Robyn agreed that Alice did a wonderful job at both the retreat and the discernment. She also agreed the ice breaker helped bring the group together. A great coming into for the PPC. Expectations matched what we got. Barb was sorry that she missed it. Agreement that more of the same next year.
- Open Sharing on Article “The Next Forty Years: Challenges and Opportunities” – Fr. Tom Dragga (30 min)
Janet’s first impression was how the remembering church fits into how we are starting a process to address this. Kimberly focused on the heir to discipleship. We have opportunities to grow a spiritual relationship with Jesus individually and how that’s the epicenter to go out to do other things. When she goes to other faiths while they are an open forum, they have a focus on individual spiritual growth. There is an opportunity for us to provide ways for individual growth. Barb feels like the Catholic Church is out of step with the political views of today’s millennials. It is hard to bring them in spiritually when they feel at odds with the teachings. Mark A agrees that there is a concern with being out of touch with the younger people and retaining them. Bethany feels like there are places because the rules tend to be too strict and binding from the Church. There are also those that block those aspects that they do not like. Mark O looked at the numbers and the trends show that it’s systemic as there is a steady decline. The data doesn’t show that there is any one issue that is causing the decline. Fr. Tom mentioned that the decline is across other faiths as well as people are saying they are just not religious. Terry pointed out that people used to hold jobs for 40 years and that doesn’t happen. Could it also translate to religion? Fr. Tom mentioned that millennials have an average of 7 careers. Robyn pointed out that it didn’t used to be easy to go on to the next things. So is this showing a lack of commitment? Is it a symptom of our throw-away society? Barb mentioned that women are more independent today. People in general are more independent. Marty pointed out that the article stated that the alienation is more among women than men. Terry feels like there are less opportunities for women in the traditional church. Marty mentioned that protestant churches have more opportunities for women, but they have similar issues with declining attendance. Lisa was struck by the strategies and the word “dialogue” was strongly stated. And how the millennials can still be connected to the church through their families. Lisa mentioned that the best we may do is to stay in dialogue with others. While it’s great to invite others back, we may be best connected through our dialogues. There were not many young people in attendance at the talk last night. Fr. Tom mentioned that it is tough to get the young people involved in church as it competes with their other activities. How much of this is coming from the parents? As the children are as equal to the parents and sometimes above. Society tends to dictate that religion is not as important and Sundays are not sacred anymore. More organizations are making things mandatory and kids are penalized for not attending even for religious regions. Fr. Tom likes the idea to keep the dialogue going as Jesus would. Lisa

Council year: 2016-2017

pointed out that Jesus also keep the dialogue open with the religious authorities and willing to push back. Bethany has observed that she's seeing a lot of young people are coming in as very traditional and not progressive. Younger people are coming up more conservative in religion, politics and other issues. Fr. Tom mentioned that those coming back like to see the rules as black and white provides them with more clarity.

Statistics:

2000 – 800,000 Catholics in Diocese of Cleveland

2014 – 650,000 Catholics in Diocese of Cleveland

2020 – Projected 500,000 Catholics in Diocese of Cleveland

2.7 million People in NE Ohio with no projected growth

Nashville – registering 120 people a week

Attendance is 22% right now at mass regularly in Dioceses of Cleveland. “Regularly” does not necessarily mean weekly.

Begin this conversation and use this as a jumping off point for other conversations throughout the year. The idea of dialogue. Mark A – quote on pg 41 – under family crisis

- Update on Re-membering Church – Fr. Tom Dragga (2 min)
Last year we decided to do this process. Team of 5 people was formed. Fr Toom has met with them a number of times and they have a great skill of empathic listening. We have received 15 names of people. A letter was sent to each of them asking them to participate. We received 2 responses, 1 woman came to the session and found it helpful. The 2nd person was grateful to receive the letter however they have found a non-denominational church on the west side and is very satisfied and found a spiritual connection there. Fr Tom never expected big numbers. A third of the names received were not parishioners here. Marty asked if we were going to continue with this one person, but that person was satisfied with the one meeting. Kimberly was wondering if we are going to continue the process. Fr Tom does not want to hound them the original letter recipients. Would we go to different people? Fr Tom says we might do this again in a year or two years. He doesn't see this as a regular program. Mark A asks what if someone approaches the Church. Fr Tom feels that the team would be willing to work with them if that were to happen. Mark A suggests that information be made available on the website so that instead of a program, it's still available if someone would come forward. Fr Tom will go back to the team about providing this on the website. Fr Tom doesn't want the process to lose its power by making it a yearly thing.
- Update on RTC – Resurrection Teen Connection – Terry Battaglia/Christa Bomeli (15 min)
RTC stands for Resurrection Teen Connection. It's a new name for the program in order to make it sound more fun and less like school for the teenagers. Each week starts in the worship spaces with all of the classes combined. They are presented with a Catholic Moment to reflect on and everyone participates in an ice breaker as a combined group. Afterwards, the teens split off into their individual classes. This year has expanded teaching staff and new books and

Council year: 2016-2017

materials. We meet 6:30-8pm on Sunday evenings. There is a new logo as well. Staff has new t-shirts and the kids would like t-shirts as well.

- Focus on Parish Council throughout the year – Marcia Catalano (5 min)

Question was asked to be sure that everyone had their pictures taken. They will be out in the Gathering Area and will be printed in an upcoming bulletin. This is to provide visibility and making it easier for parishioners to communicate with us. The thought was to provide emails as well to help with communications. Robyn & Kimberly mentioned that Ken B and how PPC can help get more men involved in the men's renewal and activities. He approached them after the PPC blessing. Terry appreciates seeing PPC members at many activities. How do we get people to know who we are? Fr Tom suggests putting pictures in the bulletin a few times a year and include email addresses. Mark A suggests that we wear something to mass, a cross, a name tag or something to identify PPC members. Dennis suggests that we participate regularly as greeters with our names and identifies us as PPC members. Will follow up

- Comments from Pastoral Team

Terry – PSR started wonderfully. We have approached by Jesuit Retreat House to present the Spirituality of St. Ignatius. We would buy into it. It is an 8 consecutive week course in either Lent or Advent. Think about and perhaps put on next month's agenda. It is limited to 30 people and the cost of the program is \$2800. The focus is learning about the Ignatius spirituality. Terry will send further info to us. We are in the process of fundraising for mission trip to Honduras. Junk in the Trunk is on Oct. 1st (has to be legal). RTC will be selling concessions and perhaps mums and pumpkins. On Sept. 29th, we are celebrating Lisa's 25th. Oct. 2nd is a volunteer appreciation event at 2pm. They are hoping to televise the 2nd half of Browns game.

Lisa – Fair Trade Boutique will be Oct. 15th-16th It's an eye-opening experience. Volunteers are always needed. We are looking to have a good variety this year. Oct. 2nd is also an animal blessing at 12:45pm. The initiative for Women and the Word is having the series is coming here. It will be the 4 Thursdays in October. Terry will present the 1st two weeks and Laurel Jurecki from St. Mary Magdalene in Willowick will present the 2nd two weeks. Our special needs group will be starting up Oct. 9th. They are looking forward to doing a Fall Fest in November. If you know a family with special needs, please invite them. Ages from High School and up.

Fr. Tom – The Gospels and Caravaggio will be presented during the 1st 4 Monday in October. The focus is looking at art and scripture. Trivison Hall, hallways and classrooms have been painted. There are just a few rooms left. All public spaces have been painted. It's been 10-12 years since last time the church was painted. State of the Parish will be the weekend of September 24th & 25th with a booklet and a member of the Finance Council will be talking after communion this. We are in the 3rd year of running in a deficit. We have been borrowing from our capital improvement fund and owe \$52K to the capital improvement fund.

- Roundtable Discussion

Marcia appreciates the staffs planning for the blessings for the PPC weekend. Also the service for 9/11 was lovely.

Council year: 2016-2017

Robyn was sorry for being late.

Bethany said that Lucille's baptism was much appreciated by her family and they felt it was the best they had seen.

Barb said that the opening service for service day was beautiful.

Mark O is looking forward to PSR year. He thanks the staff for all the programming that's been going on and the opportunities lending to dialogue. He also liked having the article to discuss at Parish Council and hopes we can do this more often.

Mark A asked to keep his in-laws in prayers as they are moving into assisted living, as well for his wife.

Dennis said that the service day was a good day and team enjoyed. Are we going to share these experiences with the parish? (Fr. Tom – no)

Christa shared that Grandma Dotty Smercina's knee surgery went well and we hope she'll be home from the hospital soon.

Marty stated that the Christmas Giving Tree planning is underway. The committee needs old Christmas cards. They can be dropped off at the office and they need to be clean of writing on the back.

- Closing Prayer presented this meeting by Christa Bomeli.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 19th

Opening Faith Sharing will be presented by Dennis Olsheski.

Closing Prayer will be presented by Terry Battaglia.