

October 19, 2016
Parish Pastoral Meeting Minutes
Upper Room
7 – 9 PM

- Attendance
 - Present: Mark Altstadt, Terry Battaglia, Christa Bomeli, Janet Cardamone, Marcia Catalano, Fr. Tom Dragga, Dottie Eidam, Kimberly Ensign, Lisa Frey, Barb Long, Robyn Manchick, Marty Motsco, Dennis Olsheski
 - Guest: Ken Badalamenti
 - Excused: Mark Olszewski, Bethany Koenig
- Call to Order – Marty Motsco
Marty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
- Attendance/ Review of Minutes - Christa Bomeli
Only change is a correction to Kimberly's name. Approved as read
- Faith Sharing : Dennis Olsheski read the Gospel from Luke 18:9-14
Jesus is irritated at those who are proud and putting on airs. Poor and downtrodden get the best place in Luke's gospel. Jesus was saying this man was trying to justify himself instead of being humble.
- Guest Speaker: How to get the men of the parish more involved in ministry: - Ken Badalamenti (10 min)
Ken – Passionate about men's retreat and feels like Proverbs 27:17 ("Iron is sharpened by iron; one person sharpens another) is an inspiration for what he is trying to do. The goal is constant fellowship with one another. Attending the renewal changed his life and reordered his priorities. The retreat is Christ Renews His Parish. It is to help men renew their spirituality and take it out to the parish. Renewal at crossroads. First two retreats attracted many spiritual men, but now it's more challenging to get other men interested and attending. Ken feels it is important for men to take a weekend out for themselves to become closer to Christ. How can we get to those other men? Women's renewal would be another separate step. Marty would like to know is the purpose of the retreat or getting men involved in general. Purpose is to get men involved in the renewal first and then move out into the parish in other ministries. Ken is seeing some small changes in getting men involved with new ministries, book, prayer group, etc. Renewal is the last weekend of Feb. Marcia is wondering if the time commitment of a weekend might be limiting to the men coming. Janet is offered that maybe an afternoon retreat for men who could not spend the night somewhere would help get more men involved. Out in the park was the men's summer mass. Barb suggested a way to get people involved perhaps a personal letter to the men, an individual invitation rather than just announcements. This makes people feel like they mean something. Marty suggested a personal phone call from someone already involved. Lisa offered spirituality is different people, perhaps one model isn't effective for all men. Perhaps a one size doesn't fit all model would be helpful. Dennis

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commented that if someone doesn't want/can't go to renewal that doesn't mean that they would not participate in another way. Men can be involved in one of those other areas and not want to go to the renewal. Dottie suggested to have people in the group invite a friend. Ken says they do that. Robyn suggested attracting men through other avenues that are appealing; ie. Golf course, sports, etc. Kimberly suggested highlighting certain topic areas to appeal specifically to a group of men. Fr. Tom suggested that sometimes in our effort to promote we scare people by using certain phrases, like it changed my life. That could make someone nervous because they already feel good or they are scared as they don't know what that means to change their life. Mark asked if the only goal is the men's renewal. Ken replied that no, it's one step at a time. The hope is that men would come out of the renewal and those men would start other ministries and get more involved in the church and not only programs for men. Terry suggested that some programs run their times. Perhaps this specific renewal has run its course and it's time to try something new. Mark suggested that we need to do a better job promoting the other men's opportunities.

- Enriching our Spiritual Lives – how can we build on what we have? – Fr. Tom Dragga (30 min)
Fr. Tom asked about spirituality in the parish and how do we enliven the spiritual lives of our parishioners? Goal is how do we enrich people's spiritual lives so that they are not busier but going deeper in our relationship with our Lord Jesus. Marcia has noticed an increase in the activities available since Fr. Tom arrived. In the weekly emails there is a whole list of dates of what's going on and the fact that they are out there is giving those an opportunity to get more involved/deeper involved. The crowds will be coming as the opportunities becoming visible. Barb reflected that not everyone wants to develop their spirituality deeper. There may be a limited number interested in getting involved in those activities. And perhaps its' older individuals who will take advantage as children take time. Dennis suggested that maybe it not so much promoting, but following up and letting the parish know more of what it was and what those who attended got out of the program that would help. A talk after the fact or a blurb in the bulletin or a short talk after mass. Do we look at these presentations as to when they are most accessible? Fr. Tom replied that we try to, but not sure if we ever surveyed that question fully. Kimberly suggested an informal roundtable discussion to raise some topics (balancing, good parent, good neighbor) and have people discuss these topics to delve down and then bring in the scripture and relate to our lives. These sessions would be quick and easy and perhaps that would get people involved to look for other opportunities and perhaps attend more of these roundtables on different topics. Robyn trying to play off RCIA and how such a setting was for new Catholics, but the team seemed to go through a renewal by osmosis. The setting was conducive with a topic presented followed by discussion. Maybe those who have been Catholic their whole lives would get different ideas. Barb suggested expanding from the roundtable with 4-6 topics and then the individuals could go out to a talk about the specific topic at another time. Kimberly explained that her idea was a stand-alone forum and not a series so they don't feel like they miss anything. It would be self-directed with multiple topics available, but only a few topics may be chosen and delved into deeper. The goal is to keep

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everything contained in one afternoon/couple of hours. Mark wondered if it would be an adult Sunday school. Kimberly clarified that it would be a discussion/bonding/common ground opportunity with giving and learning. Marty mentioned that she hoped that we don't want to stop any of the programs we have been doing the last couple of years. They present things that we may not have thought of attending or asking for. Mark brought up a concern of how to fit in something because of over-scheduling. Fr. Tom appreciates the ideas. The PPC lifts these things up and the staff needs to filter through and figure out what could work. The parish and the parishioners cannot do everything. Sometimes they have difficulty fitting essential things into the schedule. Mark wondered does attendance drop because we already have so much on the calendar. Christa compared it to the Solon Early Childhood PTA. There is so much available, but you have to let people know that they don't have to do it all, but find what fits. Dottie expressed perhaps a survey to get an idea of what people in general would like/want instead of just a smaller focus group. There may be other ideas. Barb reflected that the point is that all of this is going on and is competing with life, but can you take this opportunity to feed your spirit? An opportunity to touch your spirit. Marty likes that some of the series are individual topics and don't need to feel like you need to attend all of them. Ken suggested a one question survey, what would you like out of our church? Lisa asked are we looking to do more or deeper. Everyone responded deeper. It would be a fundamental shift in how we do what we do. Janet suggests that we explain to the parish that we are trying to go deeper. Ask do you feel like there is something missing to go deeper? She suggested that the RTC have joint retreat and mentoring the 5th and 6th graders to get them more excited about RTC. Perhaps find a way to get the whole family within the church involved.

- Spirituality of St. Ignatius Program – Terry Battaglia (20 min)

This program was presented to us. It's a very specific program that we do not have control over. The Jesuit Retreat House would come here and do the program for us. The weeks build upon the previous week. The Jesuit Retreat House team brings everything. The cost is \$2800 for the program and the parish would charge the participants to help cover the cost. Each week the program would be 2 hours. No maximum of participants but the ideal number is 40. We would have charge a certain amount to break even. The program is once a week and we would pick the day that would work. Mon-Thurs would be hard to get young professionals. This looks like this would go deeper, but it's going to cost us. A questions was asked if there is a way that we could do something similar that wouldn't cost. There was also a concern that it is a lot to go once a week that builds upon the previous weeks and that seems to counter to our previous discussion. Barb felt like it was appealing and charging it to make sure they feel committed to attending. There are other opportunities to attend this program, just not at Resurrection. We could advertise this for another location. We feel like it's a great thing, but doesn't fit within our parish. We will be happy to promote it for another location.

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- Parish Council as greeters at Church – Marty Motsco (15 min)

Last meeting we discussed how to promote the parish council. The idea came up that we could wear name tags and also perhaps the PPC could help as greeters. Everyone likes the idea of PPC being greeters. We would function like hospitality greeters/floating greeters. Dottie suggested that we also attend the socials after mass for PPC to be more visible. Lisa was wondering if we'd like to be put on the schedule. Should we wear the name tags for any mass, whether we are working as a greeter or not? Some feel like it might be a good idea, or does it feel like over promoting? Father feels like by having a job it makes it more comfortable for people to engage in conversations. Mark feels like wearing the name tags at any mass will give parishioners the opportunity to come up to someone to talk someone when they are unable to find a staff member. The job gives you the opportunity to initiate a conversation. Consensus is to do it. Lisa will give our email addresses to those that coordinate the greeters schedule. A sheet was passed around to ask for name, email, and mass preference. Lisa will express that the goal is to get at least one PPC member on the schedule for each mass if possible. We would move around where we are needed. After mass, we would make our way into Trivison Hall to see if there is anyone looking like they are new or sitting by themselves to talk with them. Name tags will be in the work sacristy on the bookcase every week (inside the church).

- Comments from Pastoral Team

Terry – Saturday is the RTC annual scavenger hunt to stock the pantry and bonfire. Kids will go to four sections of Solon and will come back and get prizes. The following Saturday is the PSR costume parade and blessing. Confirmation will be starting in a couple of weeks. Official classes begin in January. The parent meeting will provide hospitality of Thanksgiving brunch. For adult fun there will be a wine bottle painting class with heavy hors d'oeuvres on Friday, November 4th.

Lisa – The Fair Trade Boutique was this past weekend. Is there any feedback? There were 185 surveys returned from the weekend masses. The results have been tabulated into 80 excel spreadsheets. There is someone who responded to every single ministry. They are in process of divvying out the results to those ministries. There is exciting news in our Special needs ministry. The Beatitudes have been meeting here 7-8 years. Lisa has been in conversation with a Deacon at St. Rita's about their Xmas party for those with special needs. There is an upcoming opportunity Nov. 9th to discuss spirituality and mercy with a meal. It will start at 6pm with supper and 7pm with presentation. Holiday Food baskets are on the horizon. Lisa was thrilled about the evening on September 29th and it was an exciting and wonderful evening. She felt that it was very gratifying. Lisa's doctorate thesis was approved. (Yay!)

Fr. Tom – The parking lot has been finished a week early. They are looking at whether we need to crack fill the rest of the parking lot. We will be redoing a quarter of the lot each year. New cabinets in gathering space should be finished soon. They will allow us to have a modified social in the gathering area if Trivison Hall is being used for something else. Caravaggio is winding up this week. There has been good attendance with about 50 people each week.

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- Roundtable Discussion

Marcia – The Giving Tree is coming up by 1st weekend in November. She hopes it will be as successful as last year. There are over 600 tags this year.

Kimberly – It's been really good to listen to everyone and get suggestions. She's looking forward to see how it plays out.

Barb – Thank you for allowing her to have the yoga for kids program. It's been going on for 4 weeks and has been a lot of fun.

Robyn – This was the first Fair Trade Boutique that she's attended. She did some shopping. It was nice and felt good

Mark A. – Oct and Nov busy time frame are a busy time for him and he will not be at next PPC meeting. He's see us in Jan. It was fantastic to have the women's teaching. Congrats Dr. Lisa!

Christa – The RTC fundraiser Junk in the Trunk only did ok due to the weather. The items that did not sell were tagged and taken to the Solon School's Budget Bin. We hope to make some money off of the consignment. Also, the RTC will be selling Yankee Candles at mass as a fundraiser.

Dennis – Complimented Fr. Tom on how he works in the works of mercy into the homilies every week. He suggests that maybe we celebrate/promote/recognize our ministries a little bit more so that people can understand them and see what they do.

Marty – thank you and Go Tribe!

- Closing Prayer this meeting: Terry Battaglia

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, November 16th.

Opening Faith Sharing will be presented by Mark Olszewski.

Closing prayer will be presented by Barbara Long.