

November 16, 2016
Parish Pastoral Meeting Minutes
Upper Room
7 – 9 PM

- Attendance
Present: Terry Battaglia, Christa Bomeli, Janet Cardamore, Marcia Catalano, Fr. Tom Dragga, Dottie Eidam, Lisa Frey, Bethany Koenig, Barb Long, Robyn Manchick, Marty Motsco, Dennis Olsheski, Mark Olszewski
Excused: Mark Altstadt, Kimberly Ensign
- Call to Order – Marty Motsco
Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.
- Attendance/ Review of Minutes - Christa Bomeli
Meeting minutes were approved as read.
- Faith Sharing : Mark Olszewski read the Gospel from Luke 23:35-43
Fr. Tom asked us to think of what is going on in our life today and how what we were hearing in that scripture text through the lens of today and jot down a few words.
- Parish Council as greeters at Church follow up – Lisa Frey (5 min)
Lisa sent along our information to the coordinator of the floating greeters. The coordinator suggested that we are not scheduled, but simply to grab our nametags and just be an additional greeter. In February, the new schedule will be made up. If we would like to be on the schedule starting in February, send an email to Lisa letting her know so that she can tell the coordinator, Jane before February. Please feel free to start immediately as an additional greeter.
- Closing the Year of Mercy (Nov. 20th) – ideas for Liturgy? – Fr. Tom Dragga (20 min)
The Year of Mercy began Dec. 8, 2015 and will close on Nov. 20, 2016 on Christ the King. We began the Year of Mercy by meeting in Trivison Hall and then processed through the center doors into the worship space. We had a Lenten Service on the Year of Mercy, a Parish Service Day, magnets, various handouts, information in the church bulletin in recognition of the Year of Mercy. The staff has planned to express that though the Jubilee year ends, mercy continues and needs to be more intentional and focused. As people enter this weekend, they will receive a card with the Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy. Changes to mass include the Paschal candle will be moved to in front of the baptismal font, for the prayers of the faithful the response will be “God of Mercy, Hear Our Prayer,” and after communion will be an invitation to take mercy into the world. Mass will end with Fr. Tom picking up the Paschal candle and inviting everyone to follow and process out while singing Soon and Very Soon. Everyone will leave the worship space and will receive a safety pin and a pledge card. The safety pin symbol started with the Brexit vote and it is a symbol that you are a “safe” person. It is a pledge to put into practice what we believe. As we move into Advent, will keep up this pledge. Thought is

Council year: 2016-2017

that we take Mercy out of this building. A suggestion to extend throughout the year is to perhaps give a ribbon that coordinates with the liturgical year to attach to the safety pin. On Dec. 8th, there is an evening reflection on Peace in the World. The initiative is "Becoming Human: someplace to begin." Advent a time to reflect on becoming human and what it means to be a human. The night will start with folding origami peace cranes on white paper and writing an intention for peace. The cranes will be placed on the Christmas trees in the church. After folding the cranes in Trivison Hall, those in attendance will process through outside into the worship space with candles.

- Follow up on book handed out at Christmas last year (Rediscover Jesus) – Marty Mostco (30 min)

Last year, a parishioner read the book Rediscover Jesus and was impressed by it. The parishioner followed up with learning about Matthew Kelly and his Dynamic Catholic website. The website said that 32% of Catholics go to church once a year. Website states that parishes that provide books once a year have an increase in attendance and an increase in financial giving. There was no money in the budget last year to do this and the parishioner gathered funding to provide the books. The same parishioner is looking to do this again with the book Resisting Happiness by Matthew Kelly. Again, there is no money budgeted for the book this year. The parishioner is again looking for funding to provide this book.

Thoughts on continuing this Christmas Book Service: The Little Black Book at lent is budgeted and it is felt that that book is worthwhile and helpful for the Lenten season. Is something short and sweet better than a whole book? Dennis says that he got more out of the book through a men's group that discussed and delved into the book versus if he had just read it on his own. Perhaps have a book talk series/session instead of giving to everyone. Perhaps incorporate into a ministry: RCIA, men's, confirmation.

Concerns: There is more than one author out there, so is this the right author? If the PPC feels a book (maybe the one, maybe one by someone else) is helpful, then we would like to place it into the budget. If there is value to giving out a book then there should be a committee to read a selection of authors and then choose a book that connects to a bigger theme that connects to the life of the parish. Thought is that handing out the book is more far reaching versus those choosing to join a book talk. Since we are committed to handing out the book this year, perhaps we can schedule a few book talks. Fr. Tom did this last year with the book for the men of the parish. About ten men attended the sessions for 4 weeks. The Little Black Book for Lent is short, sweet, and people feel like they need to do a little something. Perhaps have something like the Little Black Book at Christmas.

- Discussion on evening mass times 5:30pm vs 7pm for Holy Days – Fr. Tom Dragga (15 min)
Mass is at 7pm on either the vigil or the Holy Day. On All Saint's Day, mass was changed to 5:30pm for the World Series game 6 as Cleveland was in the series. The attendance at both the All Saint's and All Soul's masses at 5:30pm was no worse than the year before. Someone asked is 6pm better? 5:30pm can be early for those coming home from work, while 7pm may be late

Council year: 2016-2017

for others. For many that work, 7pm seems to be better. The hope would be that those coming home from work would come straight from work before going home. 7pm is tough for those with children as 8pm can be pushing it for the kids and into their bedtime. The mass days affected are Dec. 8th, Jan 1st, Ash Wednesday, Aug. 15th, Nov. 1st, Nov. 2nd.

Stations of the Cross are on the Fridays of Lent at 7pm. 25 people typically attend and are mostly senior citizens or retired. Would 5:30pm be better so that you can hit the Fish Fry after the Stations? Stations last about 30 minutes. It is easier to attend with children earlier. Work can be accommodated. Question was brought up how either mass or station times compare to St. Rita's.

Ash Wednesday at 7:30am service would be helpful for those going to work.

- Comments from Pastoral Team

Terry – Painting party was fun and there was a request to do it again due to Solon football playoffs at the same time. The PSR Breakfast in Bethlehem is coming up on Dec. 10th. RTC is going on to Social Media on both Snapchat & Instagram. On Dec. 2nd, the Youth Ministry are going to be elves at the Polar Express. Confirmation is starting with a Parent-Candidate meeting. They will be helping with the Thanksgiving Brunch and classes begin in Jan. Live Nativity will be held again this year on Dec. 17th, following 5:30pm mass. RTC will be doing 12 Days of Christmas again and singing Christmas carols at Stratford Commons on Dec. 11th. We are continuing to raise money for the mission trip and getting firm commitments in Dec. Lisa – 153 Food Baskets will be prepared from food collected from the paper bags, schools, businesses. The committee will take cash for Giant Eagle gift cards and turkeys/hams. Ministry survey is still contacting those who responded. There was a request from another hunger center looking for help. We already support 3 hunger centers with volunteers. St. Malachi is looking for help. Lisa will ask those who responded to the survey. Question is will we be spreading ourselves too thin and hurt our other commitments. Looking for more to help at St. Aloysius in order to do more like prepare and not just serve. The energy in this parish for justice, mercy & peace is overwhelming. Becoming Human, somewhere to begin is our Advent talk on .

Fr. Tom – We are holding Eucharistic minister gatherings with the 1st 2 having been well attended. It's a good update on reminders. Alter server training was held with 7 new servers and 3 others need to be trained. We have started RCIA and will be making accommodations as one participant is a resident at Stratford Commons and is in an electric wheelchair. Many sessions will be held at Stratford Commons. We have adjusted the number of sessions with only 2 people attending. Easter Vigil will be adjusted slightly to accommodate a wheelchair. Tuesday after Thanksgiving is #givingTuesday with many charities looking for contributions to their work. Diocese has asked for parishes and schools to participate and Resurrection will use that money for the Honduras Mission Trip. The request from finance council and its response have been wonderful. Contributions have been going up. There will be an Interfaith Prayer Service will meet at Advent Lutheran Sunday, Nov. 30th at 7pm.

Council year: 2016-2017

- Roundtable Discussion

Marcia – Giving tree will need volunteers on Monday Dec. 5th for sorting. The sorting will start at 9:15am and last until about 12:30pm.

Dennis – Suggestion for a Parish ministry service fair to recognize, inform, and gather volunteers. It could be combined with wine and cheese. This would allow the parish to learn about everything going on.

Mark O. – The Halloween costume blessing at PSR was fun and thanks to Father for the service.

Robyn – As each month goes by, it feels good to feel more comfortable and involved.

On Thursday, Nov. 17th – Fr. Greg Boyle founder Home Boy Industries (Home Girl Industries) will be speaking at Notre Dame College at 7:30pm. Free & Open to the Public.

- Closing Prayer this meeting: Barb Long

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, January 18th.

Opening Faith Sharing will be presented by Lisa Frey.

Closing prayer will be presented by Mark Altstadt.