

November 15, 2017  
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
Upper Room  
7 – 9 PM

- Attendance:  
Present: Fr. Tom Dragga, Louise Cox, Lisa Frey, Maggie Beatty, Christa Bomeli, Janet Cardamone, Dottie Eidam, Mary Lou Gall, Barbara Long, Mark Olszewski, Robyn Manchick, Keith Miles, Marty Motsco, Michael Sreshta  
Excused: Terry Battaglia, Toddy McMonagle  
Unexcused:
- Marty Motsco called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
- Attendance/ Review of Minutes - Christa Bomeli
- Faith Sharing : Maggie Beatty read from the Gospel of Matthew 25:14-30
- Review of Joint Meeting with Architects – Fr. Tom Dragga (30 min)  
The architects attended a day with the staff to determine what the highlights of our mission and core values, greatest hopes for the future, then how do the facilities enhance or inhibit that vision. Perhaps the architect should do something similar with the various committees. Dan Plato spoke with Fr. Tom about having a joint meeting with the PPC, FC, and B&G to discuss our vision and mission. This sounds like a good next step. Perhaps the mission statement itself needs to be enhanced to reflect our parish today. The current one was written in 2000. How helpful was the survey with its divergent views? This needs to be evaluated to understand what the needs would be for those views. Would the PPC be willing to meet with the FC and B&G for an afternoon or evening to go through a reflective questioning of our mission and core values to help understand where we want to go as a parish and discuss how the building enhances and/or inhibits that mission and core values? The consensus was that yes, the PPC would like to have that meeting. The data on the current state of the building was not shared by the architects which should have been shared with the group. The meeting with PPC, FC, and B&G will be planned for a Saturday afternoon in January and with homework sent to think about the questions to be answered
- Second Service Day Update – Barbara Long (15 min)  
Barbara looked at what would be most rewarding, family friendly, location, and time conscious. Hiram House offers the best opportunity. We can begin at 9/9:30am and can use their grill. Their need for help is during April-mid May to get ready for summer camp. All ages can help. They are excited to have us come and help. We our activities being both indoor and outdoor. Barbara will look into setting a date with them in April or May. Is April/May too close to our annual service day in September? Any number of people can help. Many of the other groups also needed help in spring/summer. Needs another name other than Service Day so as not to confuse with our September Parish Service Day.
- Parish/Diocesan Attendance – Fr. Tom Dragga (45 min)

## Council year: 2017-2018

Diocese of Cleveland – 23<sup>rd</sup> largest in US out of around 180. 650K Catholics in the 8 counties of NEO. 5<sup>th</sup> largest Catholic School System in US. Largest Catholic Charities system in US. Fr. Tom handed out statistics focused around contributions to the diocese. In an 11 year period, there has been a 5% drop in attendance. Diocese has dropped from 800K to 650K Catholics. Fr. Tom also handed out statistics on attendance of mass at Resurrection. Our ushers physically count during two masses in October, so our numbers are fairly accurate. We have lost about 100 people attending each mass from 2010-2017. We have lost an average of around 250 people. Deaths in the last two years have been 45. The PPC broke out in small groups to develop questions that need to be answered in order to understand why there is a decline in attendance. The goal being to create a 6-8 person committee of non-PPC members who specialize in strategic planning to look deeper into the questions posed by the PPC.

### Questions presented:

Why are not young families not attending mass or PSR/RTC?

How do we attract the children in order to attract the families?

Why are the “middle generations” not religiously oriented? How can we get them reinvested in the Church?

How can we help with the overscheduling of families? Is overscheduling an issue? How can we make the Church a priority?

Is the sex abuse scandal still affecting the perception of the Catholic Church?

How do our attendance statistics compare to the other area parishes? St. Rita, Sts. Cosmos & Damian, Holy Angels, others?

How do our attendance statistics compare to those of other denominations in the area?

Do we see parishioners moving to other parishes/denominations or just leaving all?

How have the Solon/parish area demographics changed over the past 7-10 years? What is the forecast for the next 3-10 years? (Population size/graduating class size, % of breakdown by religious affiliation)

Have attitudes towards the importance of church attendance changed?

How are the families from St. Jude doing – would we expect an increase? Or has the attendance of those families changed differently than those originally from Resurrection?

Do we witness a difference in attendance generationally?

What are the current demographics in city of Solon and throughout the parish territory? How have they changed over time?

What are the attendance statistics in other Catholic Churches in our area? Are we possibly creating competition among churches?

Why are families not attending mass? Have they moved away or are they still here? Are they attending mass elsewhere or are they not attending church anywhere?

Has grade school/high school sports and other activities changed dramatically?

How has the Church scandal affected the Church and is it still affecting attendance?

Are we attracting new families?

Is family displacement an issue that cause people to not come to church?

Are people leaving our church for some of the other evangelical churches?

Council year: 2017-2018

Are the diverse demographics of our area causing people to not attend or to stray?

How are the church teaching on things like birth control, gay marriage, etc. affecting church attendance?

Please tell Fr. Tom if you know of anyone outside of PPC who would be a good fit for this committee. Was this process helpful? It was interesting to see that many of us have the same thoughts.

- Comments from Pastoral Team

Fr. Tom – In January 26<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting family convocation 9:30am-11:30/12pm called Project Love. It will involve our PSR families, but we are hoping to bring in other families in the parish to attend. It is not just for kids, so he would like the PPC to attend. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> is the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, we will have a 5:30pm vigil mass on the 23rd and a 9am mass for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. No 11am Sunday Advent mass, but there will be a 4pm Xmas mass. 44 people are signed up for the trip to Israel. We are hosting a volunteer appreciation gathering, Thursday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm of light supper and then 7pm Vigil mass for Immaculate Conception with dessert afterwards.

Lisa – We are in our last days of preparation of 155 food baskets. There are still some empty paper bags in the gathering area. There is a need for hams. Turkeys are always welcome. Laundry detergent and other personal items tend to be overlooked. Volunteers will be meeting Sunday at 6pm and Monday at 9am to fill baskets. Bereavement ministry is sponsoring many events throughout the year. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Remembrance Service for those who have experienced a loss of infant or in early childhood, loss of adoption, miscarriage. It'll be an evening service.

- Roundtable Discussion

Barbara – mass with Bishop Perez was beautiful. A man attended that concerned her and made her wonder about security at mass.

Christa – RTC is fundraising for the Houston Mission trip through Amazon Smile and selling gift jars one weekend after the masses.

- Closing Prayer – Robyn Manchick

Upcoming dates:

Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> – Family Evening of Blessing 6pm

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – Blessing Plate Women's Afternoon of Reflection 12pm

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> – Food Basket Prep

Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> – Contemplative Prayer 9am & 7pm

Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> – Catholicism 101 7pm

Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Thanksgiving Mass 9am

Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> – Contemplative Prayer 9am & 7pm

Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> – Women and the Word 7pm

Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> – #WeGive Tuesday

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Martyrs of El Salvador Prayer Service 6:30pm

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – Contemplative Prayer 9am & 7pm

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – Women and the Word 7pm

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – Volunteer Appreciation 5:30pm

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – Vigil of the Immaculate Conception Mass 7pm

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – Immaculate Conception Mass 8:30am

## Council year: 2017-2018

- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – Parents Night Out
- Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast in Bethlehem
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> – Contemplative Prayer 9am & 7pm
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> – Women and the Word 7pm
- Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> – Red Cross Blood Drive 2pm
- Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – Communal Penance Service 7pm
- Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> – Live Nativity 6:45pm
- Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> – Food Basket Prep
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – Contemplative Prayer 9am & 7pm
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – Women and the Word 7pm
- Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – Music in a Sacred Space – Burning River Brass
- Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Vigil 4pm, 6pm, 10pm
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas mass 10am
- Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – Feast of Mary Mother of God mass 10am
- Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Labyrinth 11am
- Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> – Contemplative Pray 9am & 7pm
- Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> – Red Cross Emergency Blood Drive 2pm
- Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> – Parish Trip to Israel
- Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> – Contemplative Prayer 9am & 7pm
- Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> – Parish Council Meeting 7pm