

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
November 15, 2023
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Parish Mission Statement

We are a Eucharistic community committed to the teachings of Jesus. We embrace our call to love, to serve, and to build a just world.

Our Way of Proceeding

We are a Christian Community embodying the principles of Charity and Justice. Our deliberations presume the guidance of the Holy Spirit and through the same Spirit the good intentions of all of us.

Members in Attendance: Father Tom, Sister Susan, Matt Nadalin, Julie Tragon, Tom Yuhas, Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Nora Beach (zoom), Joyce Casey, Michael Cirino, Cindy D'Alessandro, Patty Dipre, Rosemary Herpel, Kelly Harmody (zoom), Joel Jira, John Tkac, Helen Zabas

Absent: Julianne Kurdila, David Miller, Lin Mullin, and Sophie Voudris

Approval of Minutes: Barbara moved approval and Mike seconded the motion.

Liturgy of the Hours: Father Tom, Matt, and Julie

Parish on Mission - Catholic Extension: Natalie, Valerie, Father Tom

As a follow-up to our previous meeting discussion, the Parish Council heard from Valerie and Natalie, who are representatives and leaders from Catholic Extensions. The purpose of the engagement was to better understand Parish on Mission. Father Tom initiated the discussion. Key issues and questions were explored:

- *Parish partnership programs - extend parish to poorest parts of US; people rich in faith but not in resources
- *First time - frame for partnership
- *Second time - project - What would we like to do?
- *Third time - We are supplied all the materials (fliers, matching envelopes, magazines, collection boxes).
- *Father Tom - Boots on the ground! We can engage in a place! Go to the place, see the mission and meet the people, see what needs to be done
- *Sister Susan - How can we become aware of places that need help?
- *Patty - After we pick a project and present the funds, what is the follow-up?
 - 100% of funds goes to the project. They are obligated to report back on how the money is being spent.

- Tangible project - supply with pictures to see the results of the project.
- *Nora - Gap between resources people have and what they need
 - They need financial donations.
 - They are not looking for manpower; they want local.
 - Want this to be a fun and exciting experience.
 - Bring Puerto Rico to us!
- *February 6/7 - Send 2 to 3 people from the parish to go and see Puerto Rico. Get the ball rolling! Mike volunteered to be one of the people.
- *Discussion - How can we do this?
 - Barb and Patty - Build a relationship/Human community
 - Helen - Catholic Connection is our stepping stone; the start to something bigger
 - Sister Susan - Missing piece is the face to face contact
 - Father Tom - We will continue to pursue this. Read and look over the *Extension* magazine.

Parish Assessment - The Ring of Relevancy: Father Tom

Father Tom shared with the Council members potential ways of accessing and evaluating the work of a parish based on its mission statement. The primary question is, "How we, as parishes, look at our own parish and evaluate."

*Green Zone (How we often evaluate our parish), Orange Zone, Red Zone (The only zone that counts! If your parish church were to close tomorrow, how many of your people would NOT go somewhere else? Goal - can you beat 40%!) Goal - can you beat 40%!

Discussion:

- Rosemary and John - Go and participate but not all nourish in the same way.
- Father Tom - Why do we do what we do? Is what we do helping form disciples and servants?
- Mike - It's not the building, it's the people!
- Helen - I would go to another Church, but I would be careful to choose. Where can I go to be nourished?
- Barbara - How many parents are involved?
- Father Tom - Orange is a better way to evaluate.
- Julie - Green is phony and it leads to self congratulations. Orange goes beneath the surface. It changes expectations. You get what you give. Rise to the occasion; people want more!
- John - Quality vs quantity
- Sister Susan - Encourage personal connections
- Father Tom - Be intentional in the ministry we do.
- Helen - Issue a challenge: Take seriously what Father Tom said about reading the book on the State of the Church. You could virtually attend Thanksgiving dinner but it wouldn't be the same!

Pastoral Staff Updates:

Matt:

- *Quiet until we roll out for Christmas.
- *Christa is having a meeting for the Parish Directory.

Sister Susan:

- *LEAF - first time last night; well received
- *24 women on retreat this weekend
- *Ukrainian family - all three adults are working; saving money for a second car (walk and/or bike to work); Welcome Circle is putting on a Thanksgiving dinner

Julie:

- *PSR - Family Thanksgiving Retreat on Saturday (22 families - parent/child ministry)
- *Breakfast in Bethlehem - PSR - December 10 - family event
- *Live Nativity - RTC - December 16 - Family Mass @ 5, Nativity @ 6:15, social after
- *Youth Mission Trip

Father Tom:

- *Building on schedule
- *Blessing of new Parish Center - November 26 - Mass @ 10 with Bishop Woost, reception in new Hall
- *Tuesday - bells will be operable!

Round Table Discussion: Led by Tom

- *Nora - Had a sneak peak of the Parish Center on Friday - exciting and beautiful; good report from the doctor!
 - *Kelly/Julie - Application for *Night to Shine* was completed on October 18. It's under review.
 - *Patty - Happy with the girls from the Extension Program.
 - *Cindy - Think about having a Veterans program next year.
 - *Barbara - Proud of people who are working on the building; parishioners are excellent!
 - *Tom - Humility on parish center project
 - *Rosemary - Christa Brumeli - first meeting for the directory. See what other parishes are doing: Saint Rita's, SSCD, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Gesu, and Saint Dominics
- Questions that will be asked:
- Do you have a directory?
 - If so, is it in print, online, or both?
 - What is the software package you are using and who is in charge of it?
 - How does parish know of talents/

Next meeting is after Thanksgiving.

*Helen - Thank you, Sister Susan, for the Grief and Gratitude Workshop.

Closing Prayer: Mike

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 17 @ 7:00

Closing Prayer - Rosemary