

PASTORAL COUNCIL UPDATE JUNE 2019

Our Parish Pastoral Council met for their final session of the year on Thursday, June 6, 2019. In our ongoing effort to stay connected to our Mission Statement, we opened our meeting by saying it together prayerfully.

After the approval of the minutes, we followed up with a discussion of the Committee Reports that are emailed in advance to each member. The Evangelization Task Force reported that their meetings are continuing and that there is now a plan in place to introduce the concept of “evangelization” to the parish on a regular basis. The short term goal is to raise awareness and increase a comfort level with the word evangelization. This initial effort will continue throughout the fall. One member suggested that, rather than the priests talking about Evangelization, a Council member should do this, once a month or so. Council discussed the reality that parishioners generally don’t react well when someone comes up to the pulpit to give a “talk!” How do we address this? Council recognized that, if talks are kept short – just two minutes – people will be more open to them. The Welcoming (New Parishioner) Committee reported that no new parishioners attended the Welcoming Mass on May 19th. Everyone expressed surprise since this event was so successful last year. Council discussed some of the reasons why the event did not take off this year, even though it had been advertised more broadly. We will need to make some adjustments next year! Our parish welcomes more than 100 new families every year! This is good news that we need to showcase!

We reviewed our brainstorming from the previous meeting on how to actively engage more parishioners in the parish. We were reminded that increasing participation by just 1% can make a huge impact! The word “ask” jumped out from the reports given by the two small breakout sessions. Is engaging more parishioners simply a matter of asking people to become a part of specific events/opportunities? Maybe people are waiting to be asked! A subcommittee of Pastoral Council will look more deeply in this issue over the summer.

Each year our parish nominates and elects new council members. We had a brief discussion about the process for this and the timeline. New elections will be held in late September.

Two long-term council members, Katie Downey and Amy Posse, are finishing their terms as members. They have served faithfully and attended every meeting for six years! Amy has been our “scribe”, taking minutes of each meeting with patience and good humor. Amy will continue to contribute as a member of the Evangelization Task Force. Katie has spearheaded the Promotion Committee which has produced *The Anastasian* magazine, the parish website, and other promotional ideas for the parish. She has agreed to continue to lead that committee. Thank you Katie and Amy for all you have contributed! We will miss you!

Our meeting ended with a prayer and blessing for Katie and Amy followed by some refreshments.

As ever, if you have any comments for the Pastoral Council, you can contact us at pastoralcouncil@saintannies.org

Have a happy summer!



Back: Denis Glavin, John Loughran, Joe Crimmins, Jim Murphy, Meghan DiRosato, Father Colagreco, Maria Mooney, Theresa Haggerty, Father Dwyer, Front: Linda Cellucci, Brigid Shank, Amy Posse, Sister Mary Barrar, Lori Smargiassi, Katie Downey. (not pictured: Deacon Ted Raczkowski)