

Sacred Heart Pastoral Council

June 30, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

The Pastoral Council will wrap up the parish year with the submittal of the 2018-19 Sacred Heart Annual Plan to the Diocese. The adjacent "Report to the Parish" covers the major work of the Pastoral Council for 2017-18. This week Father John Forbes assumed his duties as Pastor and the Council looks forward to an exciting year ahead as we assist him in implementing his vision for Sacred Heart. Moreover, in 2019 we will celebrate 100 years as a parish!

Volunteer: We Need You!

The Council operates with members serving three-year terms and it is time to fill vacancies for those finishing their terms as well as two resignations. We hope to have a youth member as well. Please consider putting your name in for a seat on the Pastoral Council by advising Father Forbes or any member of the Pastoral Council. Also, find out about opportunities on the new Stewardship Council by contacting Father Forbes or Carolyn Gale.

Summer Reading: Join Us

We invite all parishioners to join the Pastoral Council for an optional summer reading program. We have chosen *Forming Intentional Disciples*, an easy-to-read, engaging book by Sherry Weddell about her experiences in Catholic parishes helping people discover their gifts. I read and recommended this book widely in my former parish and was excited to find the Faith Discussion Group (led by Betty Rossi on Thursday night) had chosen it. Pick up a copy of the book or let me know you want one and I'll order it for you. We will meet one time in August to discuss it (Watch the bulletin for details on time and place for discussion). A copy of the book is on display at the Welcome Desk.

Beth Renwick
Pastoral Council, Chair

2017-18 Pastoral Council Membership with end date of term:

Chair: Beth Renwick	(June 2019)
Vice-Chair: Mary Beth Griswold	(June 2020)
Secretary: Eric Westley	(June 2020)
James Richmond	(June 2018)
Edith Kaylor	(June 2018)
Joe Ptaszek	(June 2019)
Erica Davis	(June 2020)
Ann Lambrecht	(June 2020)
Sharon Landers	(June 2020)
Christine Mimms	(June 2020)
Jeff Sylvester	(June 2020)
Tom Fagan, Fin Council Chair	
Vacant, Resignation	
Vacant, Youth Council	

*"The Holy Spirit transforms and renews us, creates harmony and unity, and gives us courage and joy for mission."
-Pope Francis*

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Pastoral Council Report to the Parish June 2018

The Pastoral Council welcomed Father John Forbes as the new Administrator at an orientation for new members in late September 2017. At that meeting he expressed his desire that Sacred Heart be a parish whose members strive to understand and accept the responsibility of their Baptismal call. He wants all to feel welcome and involved, and hopes social functions will allow parishioners to get to know one another and newcomers to find ministries and opportunities to serve. He asked the Council members to serve as his eyes and ears in the parish and to monitor, rather than implement, the annual plan. In his vision, ministries no longer report to the Pastoral Council and projects will not be reviewed by the Council as they were in the past.

One of the first actions taken by what many still call "PAC" or the Pastoral Advisory Council was to change the name to **Pastoral Council**. There is no change to the advisory charge, however, Father Forbes envisions three councils for the parish: Finance, Pastoral and Stewardship. Changing the name by dropping "advisory" simply conforms with the Diocesan guidance to parishes and aligns the naming of the three councils. Also, Father Forbes represents the staff and ministries at the monthly Pastoral Council meetings and excused them from attendance unless the agenda called for their involvement.

In reviewing Father Forbes' vision and understanding of the mission and purpose of the Pastoral Council, the Council revised its bylaws. A reading of the "Diocese of Raleigh Pastoral Administrative Manual" revealed the Pastoral Council not only needed bylaws but a constitution as well. A constitution and revised bylaws were submitted to the Diocese in January. These are available on the parish website.

Another major effort of the Council was drafting a parish mission statement. Using the expertise of a parishioner whose work involves mission development, the Council created a Mission Statement Working Group to sift through ideas, look at examples from other parishes and discover ideas from such national groups as Amazing Parish. Their work yielded a draft and discussion. The following mission statement was adopted at the January meeting.

***We are a community of Roman Catholics committed to:
a closer relationship with God through the Word and the Sacraments
caring for others by sharing the time, talent and treasure
entrusted to us
being an instrument of His love.***

Planning is the primary work of the Council. In a consultative style, planning for next year emerged from the combined efforts of the Administrator, Pastoral Council, Finance Council and Staff, with input provided by ministries and parishioners who came forward with ideas or to identify needs. The Pastoral Council monitored execution of the 2017-18 Annual Plan by identifying stewards from among its members to collect information from Staff and ministries regarding the various goals and objectives in the Annual Plan. The Council tracked accomplishments by gathering reports from the stewards and compiling a tracking report.

Planning for 2018-19 began in March with guest speaker, Mike Erwin, a parishioner who is CEO of the Character & Leadership Center, President and Co-founder of The Positivity Project, Founder of Team Red, White & Blue, and a Lt. Colonel in the US Army Reserve. Mike spoke about shaping and fostering a positive culture in an organization based upon the Positive Psychology concept initiated in 1998 by Dr. Chris Peterson. For the April meeting, Father Forbes hosted a Parish Leadership Session for the Staff, Pastoral Council and Finance Council to pray, discuss and share ideas for the development of the 2018-19 Annual Plan. Those ideas were collected and reviewed with Father Forbes before a planning meeting in which Pastoral Council members developed a first draft. That draft was reviewed at the May Council meeting and a second draft emerged. Review of the second draft by the Administrator, Staff and Finance Council led to the final document to be submitted to the Diocese by June 30, 2018 as the parish's Annual Plan for 2018-2019. It will be available to everyone on the parish website.

In order to accomplish Father Forbes' vision and develop the new Stewardship Council for the parish, the Pastoral Council created a working group to gather information and ideas from other parishes. In January the working group expanded to become a task force and other parishioners were invited to brainstorm a

plan. The task force completed its work in May and Father Forbes asked Carolyn Gale to work with the two original Pastoral Council working group members to create this new council. The stated goal of the Stewardship Council is:

To strengthen the parish community by encouraging members to recognize and use their gifts and talents for the common good. The Stewardship Council strives to accomplish this by improving communication within the parish, by making it easy to find opportunities for service, and by supporting ministry leaders and ministers.

To address shortfalls and vacancies in hospitality, a working group was created that developed a draft proposal and organizational chart to cover Welcoming, Social (Donuts, Celebrations), Funerals, and Kitchen. This new Hospitality Ministry will operate under the Stewardship Council and the proposal was shared with the Stewardship Council Task Force. The Funeral Ministry and Kitchen Ministry were quickly created with leadership from Pastoral Council members and are already making a positive impact in the parish. The working group also submitted a draft Ministry Handbook to Father Forbes for final review and approval. Additionally the working group designed a welcome banner to use in the Gathering Area after all weekend Masses at the proposed "Welcome Desk", which led to discussion of parish branding, logo, and color choice. Father Forbes and the Staff are developing a new logo for the parish with assistance from Council members' ideas, expertise and research.

Another Council working group was formed by the stewards of several annual plan initiatives involving ways to "Evangelize the disengaged (the Baptized who have lost a living sense of the faith and live a life far removed from the Gospel'), the uninformed (those who do not know the Gospel of Jesus Christ), and the wounded (those who suffer hurt from experiences where they should have found solace and support.)" This group developed a proposal to provide easily accessible resources on the faith, on sensitive or controversial issues, and on spiritual development and family life. The working group submitted the proposal to the Council at the May meeting. Coordination with staff for implementation of parts of the proposal, specifically a re-developed resource page on the parish website and the use of pamphlets and a pamphlet rack from Our Sunday Visitor in the Gathering Space, will be pursued.

The parish website has further information about the Pastoral Council, including the Annual Plan, the meeting minutes, the member roster and the calendar. Parishioners are welcome to attend any meeting. The work of the Council is varied and interesting. We invite and encourage parishioners to step up and get involved in the future of our parish. Contact any current member of the Council or Father Forbes if you would like to serve.

Sacred Heart Pastoral Council Prayer

Heavenly Father, You have gathered us together as a Parish to be Your visible life in our world. As we unite in worship, proclaim Your Word, celebrate the Eucharist, you equip us to go forth to share Your love and make disciples. Lord, we take your Great Commission seriously and long for our Parish to draw people to You. We thank you for entrusting us with the opportunity to serve on the Pastoral Council. We pray for your favoring hand upon us as we advise the Pastor on matters he brings to us. Holy Spirit, help us as we plan for next year. Inspire us to use the gifts, talents, skills, attributes and experiences you've given us. Challenge us to step out of our comfort zones as you lead us to broaden our horizons. Lead us, Lord, in this work that we undertake in service to you and others in your Holy Name.

¹ Pope John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*