

Saints Mary and Joseph Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
October 11,2018

Present: Fr. Vincent Onunkwo, Deacon Jay Cormier, Joan Iannazzo,
Carol Kater, Kristen Klecan, Dawn Pavlini, Chris Raymond, Betty Reddy,
Ken Tarara, Lorraine Thompson, Therese Vallario

Not Present: Deb Carney

Call to Order: 7:18PM

Open Prayer: Fr. Vincent

Fr. Vincent's Report/Updates: Fr. Vincent spoke to his role as Administrator of SMJ Parish, Observation is a key component. He was interested in how the parishioners perceive him. As a Parish Administrator, he is similar to a Pastor. Some find confusion with this. Fr. Vincent exhorted that he does not want the Pastoral Council to hold back. We are to move forward and continue to plan. There should not be any hesitation or waiting until a Pastor is formally assigned. Fr. Vincent is in communication with the Bishop in regards to all aspects of Parish Life. Chris and Kristen would like to meet with Fr. Vincent to gain insight to his vision for the Parish and how the Pastoral Council can support him moving forward.

Old Business Updates:

Women's Guild Update: Betty Reddy attended the Women's Guild Ministry at St. Jude's in Londonderry as well as St. Patrick's in Pelham. Both of these ministries provide tremendous support to their Parish and surrounding communities through various service activities. These groups both meet once a month and are deeply rooted in their devotion to the Blessed Mother. Betty exhorted that both groups unite many people as they come together to work for a particular cause. SMJ Parish had a successful Women's Guild in the past. Due to the participants becoming advanced in age, this ministry faded out. This initiative is seen as a way to unify our Parish community during this time of transition. The

next step is to appoint someone who is willing to follow through with reigniting the flame for this ministry within our Parish. Personal invitation is a positive way to find leaders. Betty was challenged to find two other women (1 older, 1 younger) within the Parish who would be willing to brainstorm and collaborate the future of this initiative.

Staff Report/Update: Carol Kater was in attendance as the SMJ Staff representative, Carol exhorted that the staff sees Fr. Vincent as a wonderful leader who gives concise direction and is helpful when decisions or questions arise. The staff is very happy. Carol also commented that the 9:30 Mass has been wonderful with the addition of the Atonement Band. There is a good feeling in general about the Mass changes.

Electronic Giving: Kristen has been in contact with the Finance Council Chairperson in regards to Finance Council as well as Pastoral Council members speaking at the various Masses about giving electronically. The consensus was that this topic will be revisited once the transition period has settled.

Communication Between Committees And Pastoral Council: Council members shared their thoughts and reflections that there should be an understanding of the mission of the various committees/ministries within the Parish. At one time there was a booklet that had been distributed with the description of each ministry and contact person. There is a binder located in the vestibule at the MQP campus with this information. This list should be a part of the Welcome Kit. Kristen was going to contact Kay for further information. Ministry Sunday was a great success in the past as a way to recruit volunteers. Chris exhorted that this endeavor may be one that the Pastoral Council as a collective group would like to undertake. Each council would be responsible to contact a certain number of ministry leaders. A new booklet can be created as well as the information placed on the Parish Website and access on the Parish APP. This is a living document that will continually be updated. Chris sees this a a legacy as the Pastoral Council membership changes on a yearly basis. Fr. Vincent will be meeting with the ministries and will invite two or three leaders to the Pastoral Council meeting so that we are informed as well providing an opportunity for a personal connection.

New Business:

Pastoral Council Subcommittees: The proposal before the council is to whether or not continue with the current format of subcommittees. Many of the subcommittees overlap in their function/mission. The original premise was to continue to work within the Parish between meetings. Fr. Vincent exhorted that SMJ Parish has great potential. He suggested that we go beyond the council and reach out to the greater Parish community. There are many people who have many talents. We need to tap into these resources moving forward. We can bring back activities that we once had. The council members were asked to discern the continuation of the subcommittees or work as a collaborative group, outsourcing to the greater Parish community.

Next Council Meeting: November 8, 2018 at MQP in the Emmaus Room

Closing Prayer: 9:01PM Deacon Jay