

St. John the Baptist Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

February 5, 2018 7:00 PM – 9:10 PM

Facilitator:	Rich Myler
Minutes:	Erin Mathia/Rich Myler
Council Members:	Jenny Collier, Pat Coto, Greg Dober, Jim Klingensmith, Lisa Koslosky, Erin Mathia, Brian Myler, Rich Myler,
Others in Attendance:	Father Kevin Poecking, Jordan Sonnet, Peg Mineo and Walt Haluck (Bereavement)
Absent:	Cindy Vento

1. Prayer

- The seventh Pastoral Council Meeting began with prayer led by Rich Myler using the following Gospel reading: *Mark 1:40-45*

2. Parish Ministry Conversation (Peg Mineo and Walt Haluck – Bereavement)

Peg Mineo and Walt Haluck attended this evening and gave the Council a background summary of what is currently going on with the Bereavement Ministry

Peg Mineo

- The Bereavement Ministry is contacted when either a family or a funeral home calls the rectory
- Members of the Bereavement Ministry lead a prayer service at the funeral home
- The Bereavement Ministry has booklets at local funeral homes that contain information for planning the funeral service
 - o An outline of what is necessary to plan for a funeral service at St. John's
 - o Liturgical planning sheet
 - o Examples of readings (from the New and Old Testament)
 - o Examples of hymns appropriate for a funeral mass
- There are currently 19 active members in the ministry
- Prayer services are held at 3:00 in the afternoon (lasts about 10 minutes)
- Four to six weeks following the funeral, the Bereavement Ministry sends a card to the next of kin on behalf of St. John the Baptist to let the family know they are being prayed for
- The ministry is a way to bring the body of St. John the Baptist Parish to families who need support
- The ministry is always looking for more volunteers!

Walt Haluck

- Walt has been involved with the Bereavement Ministry for 20 years
- Along with Walt, approximately 5 members attend the funeral masses held at St. John the Baptist
- Walt helps set up the church for funerals and helps servers with whatever they need
- Walt helps to direct family members and those who attend the funerals where they need to go
- The Bereavement Ministry assists with the behind the scenes tasks (organist, cantor, readings)
- The Bereavement Ministry first started with Sister Dorothy and Father Joe
- The Pastoral Council can assist with helping to get the word out about the ministry

3. Minutes from last meeting

- Minutes from the January 8, 2018 Pastoral Council Meeting were approved

4. Opening Comments (Father Kevin)

Bereavement

- Father Kevin spoke about the Bereavement Ministry being a wonderful ministry not only for those who have lost loved ones, but also for those who are a part of the ministry itself
- Father also mentioned he has never had a ministry this extensive in his other parishes, noting too how much an asset it is to have a ministry such as this at St. John the Baptist

On Mission for the Church Alive

- Parish Regionalization – the latest parish groupings suggested in our local area in are
 - o Plum / Verona / Oakmont
 - o Penn Hills / Monroeville
- Final decisions are not expected until April 26, 2018 as Bishop Zubik is now prayerfully deliberating all groupings and clergy assignments.

School/Parish

- Father Kevin was approached by a school family that noted only one Pastoral Council member attended the open house for the school
- Father has been working hard to bridge the gap between the parish and the school and bring the two closer together
- Based upon this observation, Pastoral council members were asked to be more visible
- Council members to attend parish Fish Fry Fridays as often as possible and talk with people about what we are doing well and what we can be doing better.
 - o Following the Fish Fry on Fridays will be Stations of the Cross and Praise and Worship with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

5. School Regionalization (Greg Dober)

- St. John the Baptist school was represented very well at the recent school regionalization meeting
- While there are concerns about the drop in St. John the Baptist School enrollment over the last 10 years, Plum demographics have opportunity for growth. A now financially healthy school and healthy leadership team should be able to produce fruit from these opportunities.
- Father Kevin is assembling a small team to develop a strategic business plan for the school for the next 5 years

6. Welcoming Ministry Ideas (Greg Dober)

- Prior to the meeting, Greg read through a few books on Hospitality Ministry, discussing a distinction between the roles of an usher and that of a greeter with key takeaway:
 - o Ushers – Responsible for hospitality inside the sanctuary
 - o Greeters – Responsible for hospitality outside the sanctuary
- Discussed the need to recruit ushers and greeters instead of asking for volunteers
 - o Important to get the right people with the right talent to serve as greeters as they are the welcoming first impression into the church
- Instead of trying to cover all masses with this distinctive role, it was suggested St. John's starts with masses that bring in more outside people (baptisms; confirmation, first Holy Communion)

7. Long-Range Goals/Objectives

- Thoughtful and spirited discussions regarding the development of objectives for the parish long-range goals continued

Goal 1: Establish public outreach efforts to the local community (Social Outreach)

Objectives/Strategies	Completion Date	Costs Involved	Implementer(s)
1. Evaluate formation of a social committee that reaches out to the homebound	TBD	Publicity; database development & maintenance	Brian Myler
2. Assess needs and report back	TBD		
3. Evaluate formation of a Welcoming Committee	TBD	Printing; packaging	Greg Dober Rich Myler
4. Establish a parish Welcoming Package	April 2018		
5. Gather information regarding donut socials	February 2018		Jenny Collier
6. Determine viability of expanding to masses other than 9AM	April 2018		

Goal 2: Invite others to share in our faith in Jesus (Evangelization)

Objectives/Strategies	Completion Date	Costs Involved	Implementer(s)

Goal 3: Grow our understanding of our relationship with Jesus Christ (Catechesis)

Objectives/Strategies	Completion Date	Costs Involved	Implementer(s)

8. Closing Comments

- Erin Mathia will extend an invitation to members of the School PTG (Parent Teacher Guild) to speak at the March 5th meeting as part of our Parish Ministry Conversation

9. Closing Prayer and Next Meeting

- Tonight's meeting closed with the 'On Mission for the Church Alive' prayer
- Upcoming Meetings

March 5, 2018

7:00 PM

Facilitator: Jenny Collier

April 2, 2018

7:00 PM

Facilitator: Pat Coto

May 7, 2018

7:00 PM

Facilitator: Greg Dober

10. Pastoral Council Members' Homework

- Review ideas towards determining objectives/strategies (refer to page 41 of the OBOM)
- Attend the Fish Fry as often as possible and talk with people about what we are doing that is working, what we can improve...