

# St. John the Baptist Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

May 7, 2018 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Facilitator:	Greg Dober
Minutes:	Rich Myler
Council Members:	Jenny Collier, Greg Dober, Jim Klingensmith, Lisa Koslosky, Brian Myler, Rich Myler, Dan Pietragallo, Cindy Vento
Others in Attendance:	Father Kevin Poecking, Karen Kolenik
Absent:	Pat Coto, Erin Mathia

## 1. Prayer

- The May 2018 Pastoral Council Meeting began with prayer led by Greg Dober using the Ascension Thursday Gospel reading: *Mark 16:15-20*

## 2. Minutes from last meeting

- Minutes from the April 2, 2018 Pastoral Council Meeting were approved. It was noted that Jackie from the Rosary Society was postponed from this meeting to a future meeting.

## 3. Opening Comments (Father Kevin)

### On Mission for the Church Alive

- We are in the Oakmont / Plum / Verona parish grouping under Vicariate Four. The five parishes in our grouping include. St. Irenaeus, St. Januarius, St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph, and Our Lady of Joy.
- Our grouping has three years to figure out how to be one parish. The five parishes then declare which churches/resources are needed.
- Our clergy team includes Father Kevin, Father George (currently pastor at St. Irenaeus), Father Dave DeWitt (currently pastor at Risen Lord), and Fr. Frederick Gruber (currently chaplain for the regional churches). Fr. Gruber will serve as chaplain for our grouping, take care of those in care homes and nursing homes in our grouping, and also in the neighboring grouping of parishes in Monroeville and Penn Hills. All four will have Masses at the five parishes.
- The first effort: changes to Mass times. In our grouping, 12 Masses are the maximum. There are currently 16 Masses (plus a monthly Sunday evening Spanish Mass at Our Lady of Joy) amongst our five parishes. By June 11, a proposal for the Masses to have at the five parishes is due to the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
- Fr. Kevin started and is continuing to meet with current pastors, parish staff, and office staff of the various parishes, visiting and asking them questions, letting them ask questions of him. Father noted that parish staff is impacted more directly by this, particularly music ministry when Masses are cut to a smaller number.

- The Diocese has generational concerns with On Mission. It clearly is focused on reaching the youth while keeping an eye on care for the elderly. Customs and traditions of the parishes are an additional concern.
- Just as the four priests will be shared amongst the five parishes, the two deacons will be similarly shared.
- The five parishes must be maintained during the (up to) three year transition. Certain faith programs and ministries could be shared amongst parishes. One that Fr. Kevin is looking to coordinate between all five parishes is a 9/15 bus trip to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC.

#### 4. Welcoming Ministry

- Right away, we are looking to develop a Welcoming Ministry.
- We are tasked to do this under guidelines set by the Diocese. Some larger focused examples of things that likely will be necessary years from now include moving people to the middle of pews, how to use the hymnals and worship aids, where the restrooms are located, how to get in/out of the parking lot.
- Karen Kolenik joined the council to brainstorm ideas for this ministry. She will be helping to establish this ministry.
- Under a framework for the ministry, the different roles of ushers and greeters were discussed.
  - o Ushers – seat people; take offerings
  - o Greeters - welcome people; interact and answer questions
- The concept is very successful in other churches.
- Identification of who is a better fit for ushering vs. greeting needs to be made. A n usher may not be a good greeter. An engaging greeter may be too much for ushering. Education for greeters may be important too.
- Effective greeters may be hard to clarify since ushers may be perceived as filling that role. It takes people who can interact well with others and create a welcoming atmosphere.
- The ministry will need to create an awareness regarding this, inviting people who are energetic, outgoing and pleasant to serve in greeting and welcoming.
  - o A notice will be put in a future bulletin regarding the ministry.
  - o Perhaps have an announcement made before Mass and ask people interested to stay and meet for 15 minutes afterwards.
- Starting the ministry will take some work and logistical consideration. Summer is a hard time to begin. Start small, learn, adapt, etc.
- Karen will do some more research on this concept. One particular parish to reach out to and check with is SS John & Paul parish in Franklin Park. They apparently have a great welcoming ministry.
- One thing done to make the church more open was the new doors to the annex. You can see into the annex now - who is on the other side of the door, who is preparing for Mass, the activity that is occurring.
- Another idea being considered: access to the annex from the back of the church – connecting it and its restrooms at both ends of the church. It can integrate the church and annex nicely.

## 5. Update on Current Objectives / Strategies

### **Goal 1: To establish public outreach efforts to the local community (Social Outreach)**

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

#### **Updates:**

- Greg Dober completed the Welcome Brochure to be sent out to new members of the parish.

### **Goal 2: To invite others to share in our faith in Jesus (Evangelization)**

<b>Objectives/Strategies</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Costs Involved</b>	<b>Implementer(s)</b>
1. Staff and parishioners to participate in the Diocesan School of Missionary Discipleship	TBD		SMD
2. Start to determine the strengths of willing parishioners, staff, and key parish leaders	TBD		Those who have participated in the SMD
3. Develop a committee to oversee personal testimonies for the parish 4. Promote personal testimony through various means of media (print, electronic, social, in person, one-on-one)	April 2018 October 2018		Brian Myler Jenny Collier Jordan Sonnet (guidance for testimonials)
5. Develop ideas for a job description for a staff position to coordinate media offerings, communications, and needs	June 2018		Pat Coto Jenny Collier Dan Pietragallo
6. Explore the Legion of Mary as means to promote awareness and power of the rosary	TBD		Lisa Koslosky

#### **Updates:**

## 6. Long Range Goals / Objectives

### Goal 3: To grow our understanding of our relationship with Jesus Christ (Catechesis)

Objectives/Strategies	Completion Date	Costs Involved	Implementer(s)
1. Increase awareness of, participation in, and use of resources on the FORMED and SBJ websites			
2. Create an annual parish mission/theme 3. Investigate/evaluate programs to support the theme			
4. Evaluate greater opportunity to enrich Masses and Mass awareness			
5. Create a culture of vocational awareness (Vianney Vocations)			

#### Updates:

- Lisa Koslosky met with a number of parishioners on May 2, 2018 to explore ideas for parish catechesis on the Eucharist and the Mass. They hope to begin some of them in the fall. A sample of suggestions include:
  - o Focusing on a relationship with Christ vs. a class;
  - o Bring Jesus into the neighborhoods – with Jesus in the Monstrance;
  - o Time of Adoration with vibrant, energetic praise & worship;
  - o “Church tours” – include things related to the Eucharist (sacrament, corporal, chalice, paten)
  - o Use the upper room in the church – have Ron Donatelli or a deacon provide insight and commentary during a Mass (similar to pop up facts that come up on movies)
- The group is willing to meet more to explore ideas.

## 7. Closing Comments

- With summer coming and busy schedules ahead, we agreed to hold the next meeting in mid-June with the following meeting back on schedule in early August.
- An invitation to the Rosary Society will again be extended.

## 8. Closing Prayer and Next Meeting

- The meeting closed with an updated transition based ‘On Mission for the Church Alive’ prayer.
- Upcoming meetings

June 18, 2018 – 7PM

Facilitator: Jim Klingensmith

August 6, 2018 – 7PM

Facilitator: Lisa Koslosky

September 10, 2018 – 7PM

Facilitator: Erin Mathia

## 9. Pastoral Council Members’ Homework

- Review ideas to continue to develop the objectives/strategies (refer to page 41 of the OBOM)