

St. John the Baptist Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

October 2, 2017; 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Facilitator:	Jim Klingensmith
Minutes:	Erin Mathia/Rich Myler
Council Members:	Jenny Collier, Pat Coto, Greg Dober, Jim Klingensmith, Lisa Koslosky, Erin Mathia, Brian Myler, Rich Myler, Cindy Vento
Others in Attendance:	Father Kevin Poecking, Jordan Sonnet (Seminararian), Deacon Joe Vannucci, Deacon Tim Noca, and Eric Collier (Deacon Formation Program)
Absent:	Dan Pietragallo

1. Prayer

- The third Pastoral Council Meeting began with prayer led by Jim Klingensmith using the following Gospel reading: *Matthew 21: 33-43*

2. Opening Comments (Father Kevin)

Mass Services Going Live

- Mass services are going to be recorded and streamed live beginning with the 9:00AM Sunday mass with the hopes of adding the weekday 9:00 Masses and the school Masses as well
- Recording equipment is already installed
- Training on the equipment begins on Thursday (Rick Berrott and James Sanders)
- Once Rick and James are trained, they will look to train several other parishioners in order to expand the group of people able to produce the live masses
- It is anticipated that archived masses will be posted on the parish website

Advertising Campaign

- Print "advertising" of church events and special liturgies through Trib Total Media ads began appearing in the Penn Hills Progress and the Plum Advance Leader. In addition, social media continues to be used to promote events and programs for parish and school.
- Ads already published include Jesus 101 and the Blessing of Animals
- Future promotions include: Online Mass broadcasts and Bishop Zubik attending Pub Theology on December 20th

School Notes

- St. John the Baptist school is financially secure (there is no outstanding debt)
- Enrollment has gone up since the beginning of the school year

Jesus 101

- Sessions are recorded and made available to view on Facebook and Instagram

School Library Renovation

- Response from parishioners who knew the Bergs was very positive about using funds from the estate to renovate the school library as the Bergs were educators
- We are currently looking for a company or a person to complete the renovations
- Bookshelves are a key part of the renovation

On Mission for the Church Alive

- The groupings for our parish and the surrounding parishes have been finalized and the proposal submitted to Bishop Zubik
- The groupings are as follows:
 - o 1. St. John the Baptist + Oakmont + Verona + Penn Hills
 - o 2. Our Lady of Joy + St. Januarius + Monroeville
- Over the next two weeks, local priests and deacons are going through an interview process to determine their potential and strengths for future placement
- Father Kevin, Deacon Joe and Deacon Tim already completed their interviews

3. Welcome to Deacons (Their roles as a deacon)

Our deacons attended this evening and gave us a summary of their commissions

Deacon Tim Noca

- Prepares for homilies
- Serves as part time chaplain at UPMC East
- Involved with the mission in Chimbote
- Helps out around the parish
- Involved in SAM (**S**ubstance **A**ddiction **M**inistry)
 - o SAM was started last February
 - o During SAM meetings, the rosary is prayed specific to addiction
 - o A guest speaker attends quarterly
 - o SAM is for both the afflicted and the affected (family members; caregivers)
 - o Deacon Tim shared that the program has been an amazing witness of the power of prayer

Deacon Joe Vannucci

- Prepares for homilies
- Works at the diocese Marriage Tribunal on Tuesdays
 - o Deacon Joe is an advocate for the respondent (person not applying for an annulment)
 - o He helps guide individuals through the annulment process
- Blessing Services
- Marriage Validations
- Involved in RCIA and Pre-Cana
- Offers support for fellow deacons
- Waters the (indoor) plants

Eric Collier

- Currently an Aspirant in the Diaconate program
- Classes are every Tuesday (midterms, finals, papers – lots of intense studying and work)
- Attended tonight's meeting as required by the program
 - o He will observe and serve in other areas throughout the year

4. Minutes from last meeting

- Minutes from the August 24, 2017 Pastoral Council Meeting were approved

5. Pastoral Council Operating Norms

- Discussed changes and adaptations to the Operating Norms used by another parish
- Pastoral Council Operating Norms will be developed, distributed and approved by Council Members via email
- Once approved, the Operating Norms will be adopted by the Pastoral Council and placed on the parish website

6. SWOT Analysis and Long-Range Goals

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

Cantors † E
Music Ministry † E
Strong Catechesis C E
VBS (Vacation Bible School) F C
Catholic Men's Fellowship C
Rosary Society E S
Ladies of Charity F
24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration †
Lectors †
Preaching †
Accessible F
Church Community † F
Young Adult Ministry E C
Praise and Worship E
RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) C

Opportunities

Plum/Community E F
Children's Liturgy † C
Bible Study E C
Small Chapel †
Sexuality and the Church C
Lack of Focus (Annual theme) E

Weaknesses

Bible Study C
Rely on "same people" S
Losing kids after CCD E C
Welcoming greeters at mass E
People leaving after communion †
"Educate" on the beauty (sanctity) of mass †
Getting to people outside the church (service) F
Attendance †
Low Gluten Host Availability †
Lack of Women's Fellowship C
Continual Spiritual Education C
Social Outreach (elderly and the poor) E
Fostering Vocations C

Threats

Regionalization F S
On Mission F S
Fear † E
"The World" †
One Exit (parking lot back up) E
The inside of the church is not appealing †
Non-Denominational Churches E

Key (*Assessing Pastoral Life – pp 36–38 of the OBOM*)

† Eucharist E Evangelization C Catechesis F Formation S Stewardship

Long-Range Goals

- Council began the process of prioritizing parish needs using information from the SWOT analysis
- From there, long term goals will be developed (see pp 39-40 of the OBOM)
- That process began at the meeting with the following high level goals
 - o 1) Outreach to the alienated, inactive, and unchurched. (Social Outreach)
 - o 2) Evangelization
 - o 3) Catechesis

7. Pastoral Council Bulletin Information

- Greg Dober recommended placing highlights of the council meeting in the bulletin, a synopsis alternative (the full agenda will be made available also)
- Different choices for different tastes – some people like highlights; some like full details
- Council scribes will try to prepare highlights in addition to meeting notes.

8. Invitation to Parish Ministries to attend the Council Meetings

- Council discussed inviting parish ministry leaders to attend future Pastoral Council meetings
- Enlighten Council on the focus of their ministries, what their ideas and expectations of the future are, and what their needs are to continue and further the ministry
- Jim Klingensmith to extend an invitation to Jack Patnik (Catholic Men's Fellowship) to speak at the November 6th meeting

9. Updates; Closing Comments

- There are no new updates concerning the Miller Lane property
- Father Kevin discussed having occasional witness talks (a) during mass; (b) posted on the parish website; (c) written witness testimonies published in the bulletin. He has trained others in giving witness talks and offered to work with those willing to participate
- Father Kevin received word that mass time change proposals for Sunday 12/24 were declined
- A photo of the Pastoral Council was taken and will be published in the bulletin as well as posted on the parish website
- Cindy Vento will reach out to Dan Pietragallo who was unable to be at the meeting this evening

10. Closing Prayer and Next Meeting

- Upcoming Meetings

November 6, 2017

7:00 PM

Facilitator: Lisa Koslosky

December 4, 2017

7:00 PM

Facilitator: Erin Mathia

January 8, 2018

7:00 PM

Facilitator: Brian Myler

"Homework"

- Start crafting Long-Range Goals; develop ideas and objectives for reaching them
- Finalize operational norms via e-mail (Rich Myler to share document for consideration)