



Pastoral Council
Record of Regular Meeting
Thursday September 27, 2018 at 6:30 pm
St. Mark's Parish Hall, Ashland

2018 – 2019 Pastoral Council Officers:

President: Father David Raymond

Chair: Dr. Jim Savage (Holy Rosary - Caribou)

Vice-Chair: Bob LeBlanc (Holy Rosary—Caribou)

Secretary: Corrine Routhier (Our Lady of the Lake – Portage Lake)

Parish of the Precious Blood Mission Statement

We, the members of the Parish of the Precious Blood, believe we have been called by God to use our time, talent and treasure to serve God and his children. We seek to be a community of faith, hope and love in union with the Holy Spirit.

Empowered by the Eucharist, we are dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus taught by the Roman Catholic Church through prayer, worship, sacraments, education and service. We renew our dedication to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, attempting always, in all things, to love as Jesus loves.

Members & Attendees Present: Jim Savage, Chairman; Corrine Routhier, Secretary; Bob LeBlanc, Holy Rosary; Betty Thompson, Sacred Heart; Cathy Bowker, St. Denis; David Caron, St. Joseph; Christine Grover, St. Mark; Leah Girardin, St. Mary; Rosemary Hede, St. Theresa; Albertine Dufour, St. Theresa; Janet Beckwith; Martha Frank; Lynn Pelli; Pam Murchison;

Excused Absences: Sue Dugal, St. Louis;

Meeting called to order at 6:33 by Chairman Jim Savage. Opening prayer said by Dave Caron.

Election of Pastoral Council Officers:

Motion made by David Caron and seconded by Bob LeBlanc to open the floor for nominations of officers; motion carried. Motion made by David Caron and seconded by Bob LeBlanc to nominate Jim Savage as President of the Pastoral Council; motion carried. Motion made by David Caron and seconded by Bob LeBlanc to cease nominations. Motion to cease nominations carried. **All in favor of Jim Savage as President of Pastoral Council.** Motion made by David Caron and seconded by Bob LeBlanc to open the floor for nominations of Vice Chair; motion carried. Motion made by David Caron and seconded by Chris Grover to nominate Bob LeBlanc as Vice Chair; motion carried. Motion made by David Caron and seconded by Chris Grover to cease nominations. Motion to cease nominations carried. **All in favor of Bob LeBlanc for Vice Chair.** Motion made by David Caron and seconded by Bob LeBlanc to open floor for nominations for Secretary; motion carried. Motion made and seconded to nominate Corrine Routhier as Secretary; motion carried. Motion made and seconded to cease nominations. Motion to cease nominations carried. **All in favor of Corrine Routhier as Secretary.**

Pastoral Representatives:

Rosemary Hede has volunteered to serve as the Primary of St. Theresa's of Stockholm, with Fr. Dave's approval.

Motion made David Caron and seconded by Bob LeBlanc to approve Rosemary as Primary of St. Theresa's.

Motion carried. Sean Diette from Washburn is considering becoming the Primary for St. Catherine's, but no decision has been made by him yet.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Chris Grover and seconded by Bob LeBlanc to approve the minutes from the previous meeting of June 14, 2018. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Emergency Evacuation Training:

Janet Beckwith says all of the trainings have been completed, and all local worship sites have submitted their plans. Now the walk-through with first responders needs to be done on a Sunday. She recommends that each church council president set up the walk-through personally for each site. There is no time frame to have this done, but it is recommended that it be done sooner rather than later. There will be presentations and paperwork given to all parishioners at their individual churches on the same weekend; Fr. Dave will decide which weekend this will be. Janet says each church site needs to know about their sources of heat & fuel, and incorporate how to handle emergencies with that into their emergency plans. She mentions that St. Mark's is going to be getting a new propane furnace, and they will have to know what to do in an emergency with this type of fuel. Discussion turns to why St. Mark's is getting a propane furnace; Dave Caron is concerned about higher fuel costs due to the fluctuation of propane prices. Dave Caron would also like to make sure the presidents of the local sites are told which weekend the presentations will be done at the churches. Presentations will be done before the scheduled walk-through with first responders.

Parish Directory:

There are some photos that are still needed for the Parish Directory, mostly group photos. Janet says there was a great response overall. Dick Nichols did the group photos; he donated his services and wishes to have a receipt to be used for his taxes. Now the Parish is in the "building the book phase", which the Parish Office is working on, and special software had to be downloaded to put the book together so it has been a slow process. The directory will be done alphabetically, but not grouped as to worship site. Each photo will have the parishioner's name and their worship site. Chris Grover offers to take the photo of the Pastoral Council tonight after the meeting.

St. Louis Roof:

The repair on the roof on St. Louis has been completed. There is now an issue about a leak around a window behind the Altar area. Martha says a contractor will have to take the wall apart before they can see how much damage has been done.

Storm Windows:

Storm windows inserts are going to be built at Holy Rosary. Martha says the maintenance crew has been stalled due to maintenance at other worship sites. The mission kids raised money for the equipment to make the window inserts. Martha says the crew will do a few workshops to show people how to make the inserts, and they will be available to supervise. Janet says the inserts are sturdy; they fit snugly in the windows and can be used year after year.

Totus Tuus:

Totus Tuus was a summer program that was very well received; all of the kids who took part had a great time. Janet says our Parish had 48 children participate. Martha says the amount collected in donations covered the tuition for those who couldn't afford it.

New Business

St. Louis & Sacred Heart Rectories:

Fr. Dave is in the process of getting estimates on the value of the St. Louis rectory, and he would like Pastoral Council support for his plan to sell the building. Jim says one possible buyer would be the Town of Limestone, who would like to turn it into a bed & breakfast. Fr. Dave is also thinking of selling the Sacred Heart rectory. Martha says the renters who were in the Sacred Heart rectory have been out since September 1, 2018; she says it is still able to be rented but no pets are allowed. She says the rent was \$800 per month; that included all utilities. The sale of the rectories has to go through the Diocese; Martha says a few gentlemen will be coming up to look at them. She says there are some issues; Sacred Heart shares a well with the church and Parish Hall. Martha says there is also a lot on Rose St. in Caribou that was left to the church; that will probably be put on the market as well. **Motion made by Betty Thompson and seconded David Caron to give support to the sale of the rectories for the Parish. Motion carries.**

Parish Telecommunications:

Fr. Dave has signed an agreement with G.W.I. Telecommunications to upgrade our current communications so there will be 4 sites: Caribou, PI, St. Denis in FF and St. Mark's would be able to communicate with each other. This is to allow for meetings to be held simultaneously, especially in the winter when roads are bad. Fort Fairfield needs to be hard-wired, and St. Mark's needs both internet hook-up and a large-screen TV. Chris wonders when this will be completed; Martha says within the next month or so it should be complete.

Faith Formation Commission:

Fr. Dave is forming a new Faith Formation Commission; he has been taking names of possible candidates who would be good for this. This will be a commission in support of religious education. Fr. Dave would like to expand Faith Formation at all of our sites. Discussion turns to religious ed programs at the church sites and how many people are involved. Janet says this Faith Formation Commission has already met once with Fr. Dave.

Meeting Dates for 2018-2019:

Jim passed out a sheet with the meeting dates for Pastoral Council for the upcoming year. Discussion turns to the meeting for November having to work around Thanksgiving; this meeting will be held on November 15. There is no meeting in December.

Pastoral Council Meetings on PPB Website:

Jim has discussed with Fr. Dave about putting the Pastoral Council minutes in the bulletin, but he thought that would be cost prohibitive. Fr. Dave was in favor of having them added to the Parish website. Janet says this can easily be done; Corrine will forward approved minutes to her each month.

Laity Sunday:

Laity Sunday will be held on October 21 this year. This is a nomination Sunday for local leadership and at the same time do a time & talent survey for parishioners. Janet has come up with some bulletin inserts to build up to that date so that we can all be considering how to share our time & talents before that Sunday. At Mass, there will be a prayerful time for discernment of gifts. Janet says the Time & Talent survey is the responsibility of the local leadership, so if anyone responds to those surveys they need to follow up with those parishioners. Discussion turns to how to get people who have left the church to come back to the worship sites. If this is approved by Pastoral, Janet will work with the church council presidents to get the effort underway. Janet would like to make sure there is someone like a news-reporter at each worship site that feeds her information and photos. **Motion made by David Caron and seconded by Bob LeBlanc to support the Parish-wide discernment plan as an annual event. Motion carried.** Janet will get all of the forms to each church site.

Bishop's Letter:

Janet reads a letter from the Bishop approving the Parish Priority Plan, and that Bishop Deeley will be looking for an update for the Priority Plan by the end of September. She says Fr. Dave would like to have a visioning session to plan strategic goals for the Parish. Janet says there are several options to do this; have a meeting on a Saturday doing a SWOT analysis, or have the card game that Pastoral Council has already done. Janet thinks this should be a discussion that happens in Pastoral Council because this is the visioning body of this church. Pastoral seems to have lost focus on the Priority Plan recently, and it needs to get back on track. Jim would like to see this done at a special meeting rather than do it at one of the regular meetings. **Motion made by David Caron and seconded by Bob LeBlanc to hold a special Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Saturday October 20 at 8:30 in the morning at Holy Rosary Parish Center for Pastoral Council & local church site council presidents. Motion carried.**

Commission Reports:

Commission reports were sent to each Pastoral member for Worship & Spirituality, HOPE, and Faith Formation; they are included as a part of tonight's minutes. Pam says the biggest fund raiser for HOPE will be on November 3, there will be a concert at the Performing Arts Center. The concert is from 7 to 9.

Pastoral Report:

Fr. Dave is not here tonight to give the Pastoral Report.

Catholic Cents Program:

Martha says the Parish will be starting a program called Catholic Cents, which is a debit card that rounds up purchases to an even amount and that difference will be deposited into the Parish general account. The Parish Office can specify where the money would be going also, like a special monthly collection for HOPE or Religious Education. It is hoped that this new program will also encourage people to sign up for online giving.

Other:

>Question about the taking down of the Albert house in Presque Isle. Martha says the demolition is a 3 phase process; the first phase of asbestos removal has been completed. She says it is a matter of budgeting funds to demolish it, but it was never listed as a budget item for St. Mary's. It should be included in the budget request for St. Mary's for next year.

>The question of what church sites can do to save money is brought up. What are other church sites doing? What is the Parish doing on a whole about cutting costs? Jim says Fr. Dave has talked with him about this. It is mentioned that some people who work for the church are working more hours than they are marking down to help the church save money. Lynn Pelli says it is a matter of having qualified people employed by the church versus saving money. Dave Caron is adamant that the Commissions don't get cut. Lynn Pelli explains that not all commissions get paychecks; there are some employees who serve on commissions but they don't get paid to be a part of those commissions.

>Dave Caron says tonight might be his last meeting due to health concerns.

Closing prayer is said by Leah Girardin. **Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.**

Next meeting: October 25, 2018 at St. Mary's in Presque Isle at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Corrine Routhier, Secretary