

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 6, 2017
Jesuit Residence

Attendees: Father Bob VerEecke, S.J, Pastoral Council members Jack Schmitt (Chair), Adel O'Regan (Vice Chair), Kathleen Cagnina, John Karle, Bob Lepisko, Charles Mileski, Debbi Olley Murphy, David Pais, Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe
Absent: Stephen Alfieri

1. Opening Prayer: Jack Schmitt

2. Pastor's Report

- There was a planning meeting for Lent; two themes that emerged were "listening to the other" (see final bullet point below), and a focus on the elements in Scripture: earth, fire, water, and air. As part of our Lenten awareness, Father Bob would like to have parishioners pray at the baptismal font.
- There has also been a focus on inclusive language in the liturgy.
- Father Bob mentioned that the Jesuit Institute's Novena of Grace has begun, and coincides with the Lenten season.
- The first discussion of the Lenten book read, *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*, was well attended, with between 40-50 people participating.
- Planning for Holy Week is also taking shape; Stations of the Cross will be on Good Friday, and on Wednesday of Holy Week, there will be a special focus on the last seven words of Christ, including a liturgical dance element. Linda Chavez will be the homilist for Good Friday; the presider is TBD.
- Father Bob also spoke on a few important issues that arose after the February retreat (which included Xavier staff, ministry leaders, and the Pastoral Council). These topics included better communication (he plans to gather a committee of parishioners who work in media to facilitate this effort), and immigration. For the latter, he has been in touch with The Migrant Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church, and Xavier's intention is to host a forum within our parish run by The Migrant Center. There has also been initial discussion of ensuring that Xavier offers "short-term sanctuary" to those people who have been targeted for immediate deportation.

- Father Bob also mentioned a program, hosted by African Communities Together, that will take place on March 14 and 15 in and around Trinity Church. The organization advocates for the rights of African immigrants.
- Xavier is organizing “listening sessions” to encourage parishioners to practice listening skills with and for each other. The first of these, during Lent, are scheduled for Monday, March 20 and Monday, March 27.

3. Post-Retreat Discussion

- Father Bob's report led naturally into additional discussion about the aftermath of this retreat, and short-term and long-term goals for the parish. The Pastoral Council discussed the importance of Catholic social teaching, and intends to explore the possibility of establishing a "Just Faith" program at Xavier (possibly beginning in September 2017).
- The Pastoral Council also discussed hosting an ongoing book discussion group (especially given the early success of *The Misunderstood Jew*). The possibility of a film series was raised, and Father Bob offered to speak to a fellow Jesuit who is involved with America Media.
- We will continue to address post-retreat goals and concerns in future meetings.

4. Planning for Future Coffee Hours

- The tentative date for the next coffee hour (following the Sunday 11:30 Mass) is Sunday, April 23rd.
- The council's outreach subcommittee will also host a wine and cheese following the 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday, May 21.

5. Closing Prayer: Jack Schmitt