

Pastoral Council Minutes

1/9/2018

- Rosemary, Kristina, Fr. Dan, Fr. John, Erica, Dn. Bill, Brian, Cathy, Ann, Kathie, Margaret, Sr. Mary, Mike K, and Paula present
- Prayer - Fr. John
- Welcome - Fr. Dan
- Pastoral Council Staff Items
 - Disciple Maker Index Survey - Beginning in early February
 - Staff reported that the collaborative would participate in a survey supported by the Archdiocese with the goal of quantifying individual engagement in faith, community, and parish. This survey will create a baseline and will be repeated every few years to measure trends and progress.
 - There was a suggestion to include Incentive (Prizes) for participation
 - Discussion around the need to be more open and transparent about the benefits and use of the survey
 - Andrea Jackson – Pastoral Associate for Adult Faith Formation - begins Tuesday, January 16th
 - Use of Space in the Collaborative
 - The council was informed that the Pastoral Administrator, in response to a request by the Archdiocese, created a working committee to review the use of space in the collaborative. This body - along with the staff, Pastoral Council, and parishioners - will give input on space needs, and will help create a vision for the two campuses moving forward.
 - Tonight's question: Where should the pastoral and administrative staff be located? Should there be two offices (one at each parish), or should we consolidate office space to one location?
 - Overall, the consensus was to have two offices to serve the two parish communities
 - There is no financial or space constraints that would require a consolidation like this.
 - There may be an impact on the vibrancy and morale of the parish
 - Slow and organic progress these past five years has resulted in great fruit. Continuing to collaborate in that way seems better than forcing large changes
 - May 31st is a working deadline for the committee
- Pastoral Council Parishioner Items
 - People really liking the Christmas Bulletin – especially the more substantive pieces from the Pastoral Staff. Can we see more of that?
 - We will work on incorporating more substantive pastoral pieces. The issue is finding the time in staff schedule, and measuring the impact of these pieces.
 - Move the static pieces in the bulletin to the end - New eye catching announcements at the beginning
 - Kristina will work on this with Mike and Ed.
 - "Adult Education"
 - Can there be more speakers or discussion series on some particular theological/spiritual/liturgical topic?

- This item will be referred to Andrea Jackson for her Consideration
- Hospitality
 - The Council was split into two groups (One for Our Lady's and one for Sacred Heart). They were asked three questions in the area of hospitality in parish life:
 - When visiting a new church, when have you felt welcomed or unwelcomed, and what was that experience like?
 - In your home parish (SH or OL), what does your parish do well in the area of hospitality, and what still needs work?
 - Who in the parish should be involved a conversation around hospitality?
 - Sacred Heart Notes
 - Question 1
 - "Places that are accepting of kids feel welcome"
 - "I feel like I need to know the 'rules' of a place before belonging"
 - "I feel at home when someone comes and says hello to me"
 - Question 2
 - It would be good to have greeters at the front doors of the church.
 - Announcements - How do we make them more meaningful and inviting?
 - Can more people be involved with proclaiming the announcements
 - Question 3
 - Maura Iverson
 - Marie Baroni Allen
 - Kathie Long
 - Lisa Nahabedian
 - Ann Wilcox
 - Cathy Carver
 - Tim Regan
 - Aedine (ask Marie Baroni Allen)
 - Carolyn (Ed Mitchel's Daughter)
 - Tom Reynolds
 - Our Lady's Question
 - Question 1
 - Very important to have someone at the door who greets you and clearly communicates they are happy to see you.
 - When I come to church for the first time and no one acknowledges me in any way, that is a turn off. Seems to imply even a welcome to guests from the priests is a lot better than no welcome at all.
 - Some parishes, after communion, the priest checks for: visitors, birthdays, anniversaries. Not sure if group favored or opposed this.
 - Question 2
 - Shaking hands near the beginning of the Mass was raised. Unclear whether the group did or did not like this.
 - Change current wording about silencing devices. Keep it as short as possible and keep it polite. For example: "Please silence electronic devices."

- Parishioners moving to a not usual seat and engaging those around them was suggested.
- Use the word “Welcome” as much as possible.
- Our current signage “abominable” in terms of finding things like restrooms and confession room.
- If a door to the outside is locked, a little sign directing them to the nearest door that is unlocked would help. Similarly, all door might have a little sign directing folks to the door that accesses the elevator.
- Consider not using Fickett, Colella etc. in announcements and designate the rooms in a way that a stranger could find their way there. (To honor the above names, a plaque can be put in the room.)
- One suggested a map of the church and offices with key rooms pointed out could help.
- One suggested a meeting every 2 months for new parishioners.
- May want to get two groups to occasionally socialize together, e.g. have the choir and bereavement committee have a combined dinner?
- How does one get a message of welcome to folks who arrive at Mass late? (DR thought: in our trainings it was recommended that a short petition, wording varied, could do this, like: “That they would feel warmly welcomed here at Our Lady’s, we pray to the Lord.”)
- Liturgy is about community!