

OLH Pastoral Council - March 2016

Notes from the February 11, 2016 meeting

Our faithful scribe, Linda, was not present for our February meeting, so keeping some record has fallen to me. As I recall, much of our time was spent in an demonstration of website possibilities presented by Cindy. The company providing the model is the company used by Presence Radio (and the Archdiocese of New York). There was clear interest generated here. Questions arose as to what this model offers that our present platform (is that the right word, techies?) does not allow. Andy says a great deal can be done with what we already have. The question arose if we wish to expand what our site offers and add things such as Facebook (and this seemed attractive to the group), that would mean additional help in staffing/updating and maintaining our site – and increased cost. The direction of discussion was, I believe, to continue thinking, in rather specific ways, about what we'd like to see on our site – then we'll be able to make some decisions about a possible need to involve an outside company and/or additional in-house personnel resources..... **your ideas.?** Also with this is the related (at least sort of related) issue of updating our parish computer data-base, registrations etc. There is a switch in systems coming this Spring (diocesan-wide), so this is a good time to look at this. With a larger email directory, notices of parish events, programs, schedules, etc, could be sent out in this format – moving, perhaps to the ability to reduce the number of hard copy bulletins we produce each week (never eliminating, but reducing quantity). It was also noted that electronic media is the preferred way of connecting by many of the folks we'd like to see part of our parish.

Other points of discussion – update on Events Committee Schedules (Valentine Social in Feb., Murder Mystery Dinner Theater on April 9, Parish BBQ on June 25). A report on the successful Community Lunch in January. Bill Burke gave us a review of what's going on at St. Brigid's – now in recruitment/enrollment activity, a successful Catholic Schools Week and Bishop's visit, looking toward the School Auction (April 1).

We had brief discussion about parish involvement in the Jubilee Year of Mercy activities suggested by the Diocese. There was interest in doing something in April to Honor Teachers (note – we'll need to take action on this very soon!!).

That, to the best of my recollection covers the major points of our evening. Special thanks to Cindy for her website presentation and to Andy in helping us understand where we currently are and could be.

Re: March 10 meeting.. A number of folks will be unable to be with us tomorrow. I'd suggest that we **all look at the items on the agenda and share (email, sent to all) our ideas and questions.** Particularly:

The idea of honoring Teachers in April

Reactions/questions re: the Jesuit documents on parish planning

Your thoughts on choosing new members for the Pastoral Council.

Respectfully, Fr. Paul SJ