

OUR LADY OF HOPE PASTORAL COUNCIL Minutes –September 8, 2016

Present: Fr. Paul Sullivan, S.J., David Reese, Elizabeth Tarasevich, Andrew Litcher, Cindy Russell, John Mullen, Amy Smith, Doug Weissman,

Excused: Sr. Claire Pouliot, Kristen Connelly, Mary Cafazzo, Bill Burke

Minutes – Council Members are asked to look over the minutes to see if they are OK or if changes need to be made. We'll ok by consensus at next meeting, not a formal vote.

Opening Prayer & Reflection: Led by Fr. Paul Sullivan, S.J. using the day's daily readings – Gospel of Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 = Genealogy of Jesus Christ. Fr. Paul asked, how do we experience God in our lives today? Council members shared their thoughts on the reading Fr. Paul gave. From this, a? **What is a church and what does the church do?**

Church helps Christians living their lives.

What is the mission of our church -- Where is God's spirit -- in our Group, In our whole community?

What will move us towards our mission?

Council will need to discern how this is going?

Where did I see God today?

Where was there joy?

Where was there hope?

Where was there forgiveness?

Are we getting the Spirit?

Council will be assessing where the Community is in this Venture.

Our Parish Priests will start to talk to the Congregations about our vision/mission.

Fr. Paul shared his thoughts about how the Council should work. - First, the Council should be the eyes & ears of the community. What is the feeling of the congregation?

What is the role of the Council in regards to speaking to the congregation? Should Council Members be speaking to the congregation directly on a regular basis, periodically or thru the bulletin?

David Reese has asked that each council member give him a hand written description of what he/she feels their role is on the council and how does each member see the Council operating as a group at the next meeting.

The Council will be helping to lead the community.

Expectations are that the Council will give new life and hope for the Parish.

Updates:

Hymnal – Fr. Paul reported that 300+ have been sponsored now. Need about 670/690 sponsored. Will order the Hymnals now.

Parish Registration – Coming along. Carolyn reported to Fr. Paul that there have been 18 new registrations.

Parish Facilities – Oral report only, given by Fr. Paul -- Gutter work here at St. Joseph for the whole building needs to be done. The gutter leaking is causing problems with the walls. Right now the structure is good but cannot handle much more backup from the gutters before causing serious problems. Need to be fixed ASAP. The initial quote for fixing this problem is \$100,000 to fix both sides.

The Bells are now working. They play at noontime, 3PM & 6PM. (Purchased in 2002, \$5,000 at the time of purchase and a very sophisticated system.)

Continuing Programs & Resources:

Both the Diocesan Plan and the Jesuit Plan for Parishes will be going on at about the same time. Technical outreach with Facebook to the parishioners may be a good path to take.

<http://www.ignatianspirituality.com> is a site that has a great deal of general information on the vision and “spiritual way” of St. Ignatius and the Jesuits.

RCIA – Fr. Paul wants to change the format of RCIA, not a course, but a mentorship and especially a spiritual mentorship.

PARISH RETREATS - 2-3 day retreat scheduled for late March.

Jim Martin’s Book – General event for the Community. Fr. Jim will be doing it by Skype October 17th at Cheverus. It is best to read his book first. Elizabeth said she would be willing to host a small group @ her home to discuss Fr. Martin’s Book “Jesus” A Pilgrimage.

Council Retreat – Should one be done now or wait a bit? Fr. Paul asks the Council Members to think about what they want for the format for this Retreat. Would the members like to work this retreat into a regular Council meeting night by starting earlier and going longer with dinner?

David Reese’s email d_reese_pt@yahoo.com

Council Members introduced themselves to John Mullen and John to the Council Members.

Next Meeting: Thursday October 13, 2016 @ 7PM at St. Joseph Rectory.

Fr. Sullivan, S.J. ended with Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Linda McCormack