

All Saints Pastoral Council

Minutes – February 15th, 2017

Present: Steven Diaz, Betty Rankin, Eric Greenfield, Murray Gould, Elenore Arquette, Mungai Njoroge,, Jack Ziegler, Fr. Fred

Excused/Absent: Joe Ridgway, Dave Kirby, Papy Amani, Tami Gilbeaux, Wadet Gonzales-Candelario, Elizabeth Murchie, Kathleen Owens, Bill Tenity

Guests: Meg Ksander, Peter Rankin

Jack called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and Fr. Fred shared an opening reflection from The Joy of the Gospel.

A. Updates:

1. **Congolese Community:** Fr. Fred shared with the Council that with the leadership of Kathy Gosh, Director of Faith Formation, the faith formation program for the children of the Congolese Community will be integrated into the overall parish faith formation program. This is an effort to more completely integrate the Congolese Community into the overall community of the Parish.

Because of language issues, this will require the presence of people who can provide translations during the classes. The classes will be conducted between the 9:00 and 11:30 a.m. liturgies. Children’s liturgies may also be developed for the 11:30 liturgy which is the Mass the Congolese Community normally attends.

2. **Refugee Welcoming Committee:** Fr. Fred reported that 30 volunteers attended the first meeting, many of whom are new participants in the ministry of the Parish.
3. **CNY Solidarity Coalition:** Sponsored principally by the P.E.A.C.E. Council, ACTS Coalition, Workers Council of Central NY, the Solidarity coalition has been meeting at the Harrison Center. Meetings will be rotated among a variety of sites.
4. **Oxford Inn Dinners:** Murray Gould reported that there were 59 volunteers for the last dinner. The next dinner is scheduled for Feb. 19th. They are sharing information on the project with other parishes with the hopes that other faith communities will take up the project.
5. **LGBT:** Fr. Fred announced that the LGBT Task Force will be sponsoring another “Gay and Catholic” series on the last three Wednesdays of March.

- B. **Financial Report:** Fr. Fred shared with the Council a report from the Finance Committee on the ordinary income and operating costs for the first six months of the current fiscal year. The Council noted that, according to the report, we are currently operating in the black. This is a distinct improvement from previous years.

Fr. Fred pointed out that ordinary income for this period is less than that budgeted which fact provided the basis for the Finance Committee's recommendation that the Follow-up Phase of the earlier Increased Offertory Campaign be implemented. This was approved by the Council at its last meeting.

The Council agreed that the format for this report was most helpful in understanding accurately the financial situation of the Parish.

It was noted however that the inclusion of "Capital Campaign Receipts" as part of Ordinary Income does not seem appropriate and confuses the ultimate "Net Income" bottom line. Fr. Fred will communicate this to the Finance Committee.

- C. **Buildings and Grounds Discussion of Renovations to Back Room of Church:**

There are two aspects to this issue: a. the installation of a handicapped accessible ramp as recommended by the Disabilities Task Force; b. the remodeling of current Music Room to accommodate the Liturgy of the Word gatherings for children at the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Fr. Fred reported on the costs which have been projected for the installation of the above mentioned ramp. In addition, he explained a number of the options being considered by the Buildings and Grounds Committee for expanding the Music Room to accommodate space needed for children, storage, music library and choir rehearsals. Several of these options would require a significant expenditure of funds.

The Council was in agreement that both of these projects are necessary and should be pursued. Fr. Fred observed that unexpended funds remain from the Tom Tomczak bequest, and the appropriateness of using these funds for these projects was acknowledged by the Council.

- D. **Update and Input on Diocesan SW Pastoral Care Area Reconfiguration**

Plans: Because of time, Fr. Fred suggested that discussion on this topic be placed on the agenda for the March Council meeting. He distributed a document which was prepared by the PCA work group.

- E. **Discussion of Community Input for Parish Visioning Process:** Meg Ksander is coordinating the input from the surveys completed by those who attended the liturgies on the weekend of 2/11-12. She noted that we received a total of 227 responses. While we did not have specific attendance numbers for that weekend, this return represents responses from approximately 50% of total average attendance (including children).

Jack set the context for the report on the survey. He reminded Council members that based on input from a Town Hall Meeting with representatives of the various ministries of the Parish, three operational principles were identified for assessing a vision for the future of the parish. These principles were: connectedness, communication and participation. Meg reported that questions on all three principles were included in the survey instrument provided to the parish.

There was not adequate time for Meg and the sub-committee working on the input to do an analysis of the responses. Meg provided the Council with an overview of the responses to each question. While in most cases, the specific survey question tended toward being a “performance review”, the overwhelmingly positive assessment indicates that what the Parish has been doing to date is in keeping with our mission and meeting the needs of parishioners. In these cases, the community seems to be requesting that we do more of the same.

There were a number of specific recommendations noted especially in the more discursive responses. Further analysis may indicate how these specific issues point to some new general directions as well as new action points. It is expected that the sub committee will be able to provide us with some insights on this.

Jack noted that a key question related to communications was what communication methods parishioner preferred, especially their interest in the various modes of social communication. This issue can be pursued at a future date.

The Council looks forward to a more indepth analysis of the data from the sub-committee at its next meeting. The recommendation was made that once we have this analysis, it may be appropriate and helpful to conduct another Town Hall meeting with people involved in our ministries for their reaction to the input and recommendations on how it can point to some new directions.

Jack announced that the future meetings of the Council will be: Wednesday, March 8th, April 26th and May 17th.

Fr. Fred offered a concluding prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Ziegler

