

All Saints Pastoral Council

Minutes – April 26th, 2017 Meeting

Present: Steven Diaz, Eric Greenfield, Kathleen Owens, Waded Gonzales-Candelario, Murray Gould, Joe Ridgway, David Kirby, Tami Gilbeaux, Jack Ziegler, Fr. Fred.

Excused/Absent: Mungai Njoroge, Betty Rankin, Elenore Arquette, Bill Tenity/ Papy Amani, Elizabeth Murchie

Guests: Meg Ksander, Mary Jureller

Jack welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Fr. Fred led the Council in an opening prayer.

1. **Update on Proposed Renovations to Music Room:** Fr. Fred reported on the progress of this project. He reminded the Council that we had received a 75k bequest from the Tom Tomczak estate to fund the renovations, the architectural plans are in process. The current room will be expanded to the North and will be two-thirds larger than the current room. The final plans will be presented to the Council at its next meeting.
2. **Update on the Installation of the St. Andrew's Window:** Fr. Fred reported to the Council that there was a meeting of members of the Parish Buildings and Grounds Committee, former St. Andrew's Parishioners and other interested persons with Bob Haley who explained the window and how it came to be given to All Saints. He presented three possible locations for installation: a) in the sanctuary which would require some remodeling of the overall sanctuary space; b) the current Blessed Mother niche which may be too small of a space to display the window; c) and the clear glass circular window in the entrance way to the church proper.

The initial preference of many of those attending the meeting was for the third option. We are awaiting further information from Bob and a recommendation will be presented to the Council. Input from the community at large will also be sought.

3. **Request of Disability Task Force for Additional Handicapped Parking Spaces:** Jack explained that we have received a request from the Disabilities Task Force that additional parking spaces be designated as reserved for persons with disabilities.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has done some preliminary research regarding this request. They noted that for every two handicapped spaces, we lose three regular parking spaces. 10 out of a total of 76 off street parking spaces are

marked “handicapped” which is within existing code guidelines. There is also street parking which includes an additional four handicapped marked spots.

In addition, several committee members did counts on the weekend of April 8-9. Note that this was Palm Sunday weekend and crowds are traditionally higher. For the 4:00 anticipated Mass, 60% of the parking spaces were used as well as cars on the street. 6 out of 10 handicapped spots were used. For the 9:00 liturgy, all parking spaces were used including 15 parked in non-marked spots. 11 cars were parked in 10 handicapped spots including three that did not have handicapped stickers. At the 11:30 Mass, all of the regular parking spaces were used plus 13 in non marked spaces. Of the five handicapped parked cars, one did not have the required sticker.

The Buildings and Grounds also estimated that the cost of extending the parking lot to realize 13 additional spaces would be approximately \$25,000.

After some in-depth discussion, the recommendation of the Council was as follows:

- a) place reminder notices in the bulletin that only cars with the appropriate handicapped sticker are allowed to park in the handicapped designated spaces;
 - b) a sensitively worded notice will be placed on the windshield of cars parking in handicapped spaces without a sticker. The notice will offer information on how the appropriate stickers can be obtained;
 - c) since the parking lot is scheduled to be resealed including the marking of individual parking spaces, the Disabilities Task Force will be asked to provide input regarding the location of the 10 handicapped spaces;
 - d) no additional handicapped spaces will be designated at this time.
4. **Sanctuary Parishes:** Fr. Fred announced that a lecture entitled “What Does It Mean to be a New Sanctuary Church?” will be held on Monday May 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Plymouth Church in downtown Syracuse.
 5. **Community Input for Visioning Process:** An ad hoc sub-committee, Eric Greenfield, Kathleen Owens, Waded Gonzales-Candelario and Mungai Njoroge with the assistance of Meg Ksander from the parish staff, tabulated and reviewed the data received from the community survey conducted several weeks ago. A total of 231 survey forms were returned a number of which were only partially completed. Based on the input, the sub-committee offered the Council by way of an Executive Summary their assessment of the significance of the input for the proposed visioning process.

The survey data indicated an overwhelming endorsement by the parishioners of both the mission and current direction of the parish, especially its focus on the inclusive welcome of diversity and its social justice orientation. Furthermore, the survey results call the parish to continue nurturing and expanding our community building activities and ministries.

In its analysis of the data, the sub-committee observed that the parish in its numerous and various ministries as well as its underlying spirituality is providing a vibrant environment for the inspiration and direction of the Holy Spirit. At the same time, the committee acknowledged that there are limits to our resources, i.e. finances, staff, facilities, volunteers, etc. and the future development of the parish requires ensuring the availability of the resources necessary to function. Managing this balance is key to fostering this vibrant “habitat for the Holy Spirit” and must be addressed in any planning for the future.

In its discussion of the sub-committee’s report, the Council focused on the underlying spirit of the parish that has enabled it to become the faith community that it is today; the spirit that attracts new parishioners, oftentimes from a distance; the spirit that instills in parishioners a strong sense of belonging and welcoming inclusivity.

In short, it is a spirit that arises from the vast variety of ministries and activities alive in the parish in its effort to realize its mission and respond to the Gospel call to serve the vulnerable and those in need in the parish, in our broader community and globally. This high level of committed activity involves a significant percentage of the parishioners and the ongoing emergence of new initiatives serves to encourage and enable those who may have been un-engaged to become involved. It is the conviction of the Council that this points to the active presence of the Spirit in our midst.

The Council recognized that there are a number of factors that make this possible. But chief among these factors is the Spirit-filled leadership of our Pastor that spills over into the leadership activities of the staff and so many volunteers. Without Fr. Fred’s extraordinary openness, his profound spirituality and sense of what it means to be a Gospel church, All Saints would not be what it is today.

Thus the Council returned to a concern that it has expressed numerous times over the years...what happens when Fr. Fred’s energy level become diminished by age or health? What happens if a new pastor is appointed who does not share in the same vision of what it means to be a Gospel community? Will the parish be subject to closure or joint membership with another parish community as the priest shortage increases? And perhaps even more profoundly, the Council, while recognizing the unique role an ordained priest has within a Catholic parish, asked if the continued existence and growth of a Gospel parish should be so dependent on the leadership of a priest?

As a result of these reflections, the Council suggested that the goal of the next phase of the ongoing development of All Saints Parish might be to focus on developing a new leadership model for the parish. In so doing, the process would base its activity on the Scripture witness to the original development of the Christian community as well as both the dogmatic teaching of Vatican II on the Church and the pastoral constitution on the role of the Church in the modern world.

The effort would look to the structure of a new leadership model; it would identify the contents of that leadership function; and it would reflect on what the spirituality would be of an effective leadership role in both guiding the current life of a parish striving to meet the Gospel call and fostering its continued development.

In a more immediate sense, Council members recognized that pursuing this task as a next step in our parish development would also have practical ramifications for Fr. Fred as he looks forward to continuing as our pastor for as long as his health and energies allow.

If we are to pursue this challenge, the Council recognized the value of obtaining input and cooperation of staff and parishioners currently involved in the ministries of the parish as well as the ongoing input from the community at large. Thus the visioning process to implement this project would include recommendations for obtaining this input and cooperation. The Council agreed to discuss this further at its next meeting.

Jack announced that the next meeting of the Council will be Wednesday May 17th.

Fr. Fred offered a concluding prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Ziegler