

All Saints Pastoral Council Minutes

September 6, 2017 Meeting

Present: Wadet Gonzalez-Candelario, Tami Gilbeaux, Eric Greenfield, Steven Diaz, Murray Gould, Joe Ridgway, Dave Kirby, Fr. Fred, Jack Ziegler

Excused/Absent: Betty Rankin, Elenore Arquette, Kathleen Owens/Papy Amani, Bill Tenity

Guests: Kathy Gosh, Meg Ksander

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

1. Updates:

- a. Placement of St. Andrew's Window:** The Buildings and Grounds Committee is seeking an estimate of installation costs for two locations: i) the circular window at the rear of the nave looking into the gathering area; ii) the front of the sanctuary which would require the installation of a wall into the middle of the existing grill work where the window would be located. The actual placement will be determined by the respective cost.
- b. Expansion of music room project:** The Buildings and Grounds Committee reported that the City is requiring two additions to the proposed expansion plan: i) the addition of a second external exit; ii) installation of materials to increase fire delay. The plans have been resubmitted to the City and we are waiting on an adjusted cost estimate. Fr. Fred noted that there are adequate funds remaining from the Tomczak bequest to cover the adjusted cost estimate.
- c. Increased Offertory Initiative:** Fr. Fred reported that the Increased Offertory initiative was most successful. Weekly collections have stayed above \$5k per week. According to Cunneen, the professional fund raiser, there is an overall 28% increase in weekly collections.
- d. Hope Appeal:** Fr. Fred announced that the parish participation in the Diocesan Hope Appeal which was postponed from its normal Spring schedule will be conducted this Fall. Further information will be forthcoming.
- e. All Saints designation as a "Sanctuary Parish":** Fr. Fred reported that St. Lucy's parish is currently discussing its designating itself as a "Sanctuary Parish" and is expected to vote and make its announcement soon. With the current increase in ICE deportation, we may need to designate space that can be provided to someone identified for deportation.

Fr. Fred reported that he discussed the possibility of using space adjacent to the residence of Sr. Anne and Sr. Maura. They agreed to with this recommendation and the space is being readied for potential use.

2. **Christmas Liturgical Schedule:** Fr. Fred explained that with Christmas falling on a Monday, there would be a proliferation of Masses if we followed the normal weekend/Christmas schedules. He recommended that we schedule a Mass at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday to celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent; schedule no Masses on Sunday morning; schedule a 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Sunday Christmas Eve and a 10:00 a.m. Mass on Christmas morning. The Council was in agreement.
3. **Parish Website:** Murray Gould noted that the appointment of a new Website administrator and the development of protocols for using the site were a positive development. Council members observed that it is important that the website be used for than posting schedules, meetings, events. The site needs more information on the various ministries conducted in the parish; the various activities and parish events;and enable links to the appropriate entries in the Parish Ministry Booklet. The site should also include reports on parish activities and celebrations with a focus on the respective impacts. Generally, the Council was most pleased with the recent progress in developing the site.
4. **New Parish Council:** Jack announced that this would be the last meeting of the currently constituted Council. According to his records, Betty Rankin and Eric Greenfield will have completed two full successive terms and according to Council procedures would be expected to step down. After a period of one year, they may present themselves for a new membership term.

Papy Amani, Bill Tenity, Steven Diaz and Joe Ridgway are completing the first year of a new term. The balance of the Council members, i.e. Tami Gilbeaux, Murray Gould, Elenore Arquette, Kathleen Owens, Dave Kirby and Wadet GonzalezCandelario are completing the second year of their first term. These Council members may serve for one more two-year term if they so choose.

Jack thanked Betty and Eric for their service to the Parish. He asked those completing their first term, in the interest of continuity, to prayerfully consider remaining on the Council for a second two year term. A discernment process will be conducted to fill four seats which are currently vacant.

5. **Discussion of Pastoral Care Area proposal for reconfiguration:** Jack set the context for the Council's discussion of the Pastoral Care Area (PCA) proposal by reminding the members that as part of the next phase of reconfiguration process, PCAs were formed throughout the Diocese to make recommendations for their respective areas.

The PCA to which All Saints belongs includes: Cathedral Parish, St. Lucy's., St. Anthony's Most Holy Rosary, and St. James, and the Brady Faith Center. Our

Lady of Lourdes was also a member but has since merged with St. James according to a decision made a number of years ago by Bishop Moynihan.

The Cathedral, St. Lucy's and All Saints joined together with the Brady Center to formulate a plan that would impact their communities. St. Anthony's chose to align with St James; Rosary opted not to participate in the process.

Because of a strong ministerial commitment to the poor of Syracuse...St. Lucy's and Cathedral because of geographic location, Brady Faith Center by specific mission and All Saints by a direct ministerial focus...these four entities proposed a direction that will delineate the future for these four communities.

The proposal responds to Bishop's Cunningham direction that PCAs address a) ministry to those who live in the area and b) the development of new ways of being faith communities.

It was recognized that there is a uniqueness to each of the four faith communities that contributes to their ministerial focus, identity, spirituality and sense of community. One aspect of that uniqueness shared by each of the communities is that they have evolved into "intentional communities".

"Intentional community" recognizes that each of these communities has moved beyond being geographical communities. The majority of their membership is comprised from many different geographical locations who intentionally choose to belong and participate in their respective community. In each case, each of these communities has demonstrated increased membership and sound fiscal stability.

Moreover, while each of the parishes engage in a variety of programs, activities and ministries that foster and support their unique faith life, they all share a common a commitment to serve and be present to the poor.

Thus the proposal for these communities of the PCA is twofold: a) to continue in all that needs to be done to serve and foster the unique nature of each of the faith communities; and b) come together to develop, resource and implement a joint ministry to the poor of the South side of Syracuse.

The Diocese has communicated to the PCA that, upon the death or retirement of any of the priests currently serving within the PCA, no priest will be assigned to take their place. Ultimately, there will be a total of three priests available for a shared sacramental ministries to all the parish communities.

Therefore, in order to implement the proposal, the four communities agreed to the following:

- a. Each parish community will develop its own pastoral plan to address the ongoing organizational needs required to continue their growth as unique individual faith communities. This will include staffing, volunteer development, continued stewardship of financial and facility resources and the development of a “Parish Life Director”, a position being developed by the Diocese, which will take the place of the resident priest pastor and will be charged with the administrative leadership of the parish.
- b. Each parish, together with the Brady Center, will implement a joint steering committee charged with administering the joint ministry to the poor of the South side. This steering committee will: a) develop an organizational plan; b) determine resource requirements, i.e. staff, volunteer involvement, financial and facility resources, etc.; c) identify potential means/sources for acquiring and retaining necessary resources; d) determine an accountability structure.

Council members asked a number of clarifying questions regarding the PAC proposal. The discussion focused on the position of Parish Life Director. The Chancery is currently working on developing consistent parameters for this position including the training program. Sr. Laura Buffano is the Diocesan Director of the Office of Pastoral Leadership.

While the normal procedure is for the Diocese to train and certify individuals for this position and then appoint them to parishes where priests are no longer available to serve as resident pastors, there is the possibility of parishes going through a process whereby potential leaders are identified from within the community then trained and appointed to serve.

It is the position of the Council that the parish go through a process of identifying potential candidates for a Parish Life Director from within the community. It was observed that proceeding with such a process while Fr. Fred remains as our resident pastor would be a distinct benefit not only in designing the process but giving it credibility. Based on the Council’s recommendation, Staff will look into various programs for identifying community leaders and report back to the Council.

A date for the next meeting of the Council will be determined following the discernment process for new membership. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Ziegler