

## Pastoral Council Minutes – March 13, 2019

### Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Pat Buehler called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Dave Topp led the opening prayer.

**Present:** Pat Buehler, David Topp, Joe Gonzalez, Ray Gross, Terry Brecklin, Matt Hoffa, Lisa Kovaleski, John Walker and Matthew Lehner

**Excused:** Tim Khoury, Jill Lehnen, Dcn. Sandy Sites

**Approval of Minutes:** The February Minutes were approved prior to the meeting via the email approval process.

### Message from the Chair – Pat Buehler.

- Monthly Pre-Mass Presentations.
  - Presentations will resume in April. We discussed moving the presentation from five minutes before mass to the beginning of mass because parishioners are still entering the church five minutes before mass.
  - Lisa brought forth a concern raised by one parishioner regarding the increased noise level before mass, an issue which has been noticed by council members. We discussed the challenge of meeting the needs of all parishioners: Some desire a quiet atmosphere for pre-mass prayers, while others take joy from visiting with seatmates. There was consensus that a desirable volume for conversation within the church proper should be at “library level.” No decisions were made on the best way to foster this atmosphere. We agreed to pray on the topic and discuss it again at the next meeting.
- New Handrailing. The new installation was well received by members of the Human Concerns Committee. The railing is being used by some of our priests, as well as by some of our Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers.

### Finance Council Update - John Walker

- John Walker and Alyssa Rimm are working on 3-5-7- year strategic plan that will include details to enhance previously-established goals.
- The Legacy Fund will be announced on May 1. By July 1, the parish will have all legal documents in place and the Fund will be up and running.
- The parish is up-to-date on the current archdiocesan assessment but has outstanding obligations from previous years.
- As last year, there will be one Sunday morning mass in the summer.
- The study group for the 5:30 pm mass will reconvene to discuss the success of that time slot, to-date. This announcement triggered wide-ranging comments and questions from council members. The discussion included the following:
  - We need to attract more youth, not only to Sunday evening, but to all masses. Matt L. reported that this is already a topic of discussion with Bryan Ramsey.
  - We need to evaluate if we are adequately advertising the Sunday 5:30 pm mass on our website and in the bulletins of surrounding parishes. We have to be sure to reach out to those whose

parishes do not offer a Sunday evening mass. Concern was raised that if this mass is omitted, we send the message of being inconsistent with new initiatives.

- We need an update on the cost per mass, including information on how the cost is calculated. Data was also requested on attendance and contributions.
- If we have a shortage of music ministers for the mass, we might consider a “low mass” format.
- We need to ask and answer the question: What does success look like for a Sunday evening mass? This is a question that we need to discuss from a spiritual perspective while being mindful of finances.
- John spoke briefly about other items which would have been included in the Parish Director’s Report.
  - The Multi-Parish consultants from the archdiocese were impressed with the collaboration between St. James and Good Shepherd.
  - At a recent Parish Directors Meeting, Dcn. Sandy received kudos for holding listening sessions about the sexual abuse scandal. Other parish directors were encouraged to do the same.
  - We expect Dcn. Sandy will provide more information about the above items at the next meeting.

### **Other**

- Dave Topp reported that he and Kurt Roskope are proposing the creation of an Abilities Ministry Subcommittee which will allow them to “officially” recruit members. This would be a subcommittee of the Human Concerns Committee. We will need to check the Council Norms for guidance on establishing a subcommittee before moving forward on this request.

### **Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

- Terry Brecklin led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.

### **Reminder**

Opening Prayer Schedule: April-Walker; May - Kovaleski; June - Brecklin

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journeying towards the fullness of the Kingdom of God  
through worship, formation and service.*