

Saints Mary and Joseph Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2015

1. Call to order – 7:25pm
 - a. Welcome to members of Long Range Planning Committee and a thank you for their time and talent devoted to the preparation of information submitted to our Bishop on the status of our Parish. Attending: Lorraine Thompson, Paul St. Amand, Alan Phair, and Scott Routhier
2. Opening prayer and discernment led by Fr. John –
 - a. Ephesians 2:4-10
3. Pastor's Report – Fr. John
 - a. Plowing expenses this year to date are approximately \$18,000. An outside window at MQP was shattered and the lower portion of the stained glass was damaged, as well as two bent roof snow barriers and the broken hand of the statue of the Sacred Heart at St. Joe's.
 - b. Justine Dufour has been appointed our new pastoral minister, and begins her ministry on Monday, March 16th. She will be devoting some time to our Baptismal program, including record keeping and other paperwork, as well as the activities of visitation, picnic coordinator, Christmas pageant, and funeral service contacts. Justine will be completing the three-year Called to Servant Leadership Program, and will be participating in the Wednesday Communion Services at Salemhaven and MQP.
WELCOME JUSTINE.
 - c. Fr. Ed Quinnan, the Northeast Province Pastoral Assistant will be visiting our parish on Palm Sunday weekend and will be meeting with our staff, Pastoral and Finance Council members.

- d. Blessings and thank you to Deacon Jay for the wonderful service to our parish with the Lenten Retreat. Approximately 90 people attended each day.

4. Old Business

- a. Long Range Planning report – Fr. John and Fr. Tom met with Bishop Peter on March 2, 2015. Bishop Peter's advice was that we continue to work to grow the parish with young families, which would allow both sites to continue and provide the funds needed to insure growth and future repairs/renovations. A summary will be published in the parish bulletin the weekend of March 21-22.
 - i. Group discussion followed. Fr. Tom, as a member of the Salem Clergy group, estimates less than 3000 residents attend Salem churches on weekends. There was some concern that the repairs required by the previous Turner report (both campuses) are long overdue. Where is the money coming from to perform these repairs? It will be planned to complete required repairs and minor renovations at this time. A strategy to implement the 2-site plan needs to be discussed and timelines established keeping in mind the current financial resources.
- b. Ministry weekend – the planning group of Diane/Al Cormier, Jan Childs, Judi Ryan will meet on Sunday, April 12 to discuss and organize a revised plan for recruiting volunteers for our many ministries. The results will be presented to the Pastoral Council at the May meeting, with plans focused on implementation in September.
 - i. There was a suggestion that all ministry leads provide email addresses as the communication tool for those interested in volunteering/participating. We were reminded that some parishioners choose not to use email. The parish's general mailbox can be utilized for

heads of ministries who are without email – it goes directly to Fr. Tom who will forward messages as needed.

- c. Improving opportunity for parishioners to utilize regular on-line donations – information is currently on website and in the bulletin, however, increased exposure is needed to highlight the opportunity. This issue will be assigned to Finance Committee for action.
 - d. Music – Kyle will be with our parish for another year
 - e. Evaluation of homilies – much discussion ensued relative to the appropriateness over the past few weeks, with specific examples shared with the clergy, and the impact experienced, including Deacon Jay’s retreat talks. The focus on ISIS/Violence in the Middle East crisis was a relevant and powerful experience for many people.
5. New Business
- a. Pope Francis is appearing in Philadelphia in September at the World Meeting of Families, Sept. 22-27
 - i. We will promote the visit on our website with a link to the diocesan site to register for the pilgrimage
 - ii. It was suggested we consider chartering a bus for a day trip to Philadelphia to attend the Mass. This will be considered following the May 1 registration deadline.
 - b. Subcommittee follow up reports
 - i. “ Becoming a community of missionary disciples within a fully welcoming parish” – Chris/Amy/Tina
 - 1. Suggestion to implement consistency across campuses in the roles of Mass coordinators, altar and greeter coordinator roles. A volunteer request letter will be drafted by April 1 and submitted to Frs. John/Tom for approval. It will be sent to past pastoral council nominees and ministry weekend list of volunteers (2014) on

April 8th. Once completed, coordinators, volunteers and clergy will meet to discuss roles and expectations.

2. Name tags w/lanyards to be created for all greeters.

3. Need for gluten free hosts will be solicited.

Action plan will be developed based on need.

ii. "Make Faith an Experience – Youth, Young adults, Young families" – Joe/Christi

1. 5PM Mass - Kyle providing music,- hook up microphone. Encourage more organization and recruitment of young people to lead in roles of ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, greeters. Is 5pm the appropriate time or should a later time be considered? A listening session should be scheduled soon for feedback re this new Mass experience.

2. Children's liturgy Masses

a. Expand to year round. Recruit parents/young people to assist once a month.

b. Have children participate, i.e. presentation of the gifts

c. Recruit families as greeters @ our family Masses

d. Happy Days is planned for the second week in August. This is an opportunity to appeal to young families and grow our parish youth.

c. 2015/2016 Pastoral Council discernment sessions, May 7 & May 14th. Three openings available for 3 year terms each.

i. Discussion tabled due to time constraints.

1. Should new candidates be willing to be fully engaged, and committed to more than just monthly meetings? Should we require that they be very visible and accessible to the congregation, acting as the hands of an inviting and welcoming community? Should we be looking for any specific qualities in new council candidates?
 2. PC Retreat—usually mid Sept. We should agree on a date before the PC Discernment Sessions, and let candidates know at the sessions that the retreat is of great importance, and participation is highly encouraged. All (5-10/0 min.)
 3. The above items will be discussed in more detail at the Thursday “Rebuilt” meeting. Comments from council members are welcome to be sent to Steve prior to Thursday’s meeting for inclusion.
6. Closing prayer led by Chris Raymond. The meeting was adjourned @ 9:37pm

Next meeting, April 9, 2015