

Parish Saints Mary and Joseph  
Pastoral Council  
Meeting Minutes, December 11, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:24. Fr. John read the opening prayers, discernment followed.

### 1. Pastor's report

- 1.1. Linda Pavlini has been hired part-time to help in the office.
- 1.2. The Knights of Columbus gave a contribution to cover our losses from the recent theft
- 1.3. The Knights of Columbus are paying for a planning study at the school in the hopes that we can increase enrollment.
- 1.4. Comedy Night will be chaired this year by Jamie Thompson and Mike and Tara Banks.
- 1.5. The parish contributed to greatly needed renovations of the bathrooms in the school gym.

### 2. Old Business

#### 2.1. LRP

- 2.1.1. A summary version of the Long Range Planning (LRP) report will be put on our web-site. The summary will be written by Fr. John and members of the LRP committee.
- 2.1.2. Fr. John handed out the upcoming yearly financial report. The report was amended to indicate that the Jesuits may or may not be here longer than three years. A comment was made on the 60% of members living closer to St. Joseph. Members of Long Range Planning committee and Pastoral Council will work with Fr. John to prepare information for the website. **Steve Barretto will contact volunteers from the respective committees.**

#### 2.2. New Web-site Design

- 2.2.1. We have encountered some difficulty implementing our new design. Because of the holiday rush, we will aim to make it live by Jan 15.
- 2.2.2. Staff and minister bios and pictures are being assembled.
- 2.2.3. Facebook is up to 94 likes, and Twitter is up to 16 followers.
- 2.2.4. Lorraine Thompson will join the media committee, since she services the hard copy media.

#### 2.3. Music

- 2.3.1. The music committee will not be resurrected at this time. It will be called upon in March to find a 9:30am mass replacement for Kyle when he goes away to college.
- 2.3.2. We are helping Kyle with recruiting singers and musicians for the 9:30am mass. A few young singers have come forward, but Kyle would like a drummer and other instruments. Shawn and Sue may be able to find musicians in the youth group and faith formation programs. If we can find names of young musicians in the parish, we could then encourage them to volunteer. Can we put some flashy advertisements around? Steve and Christi will look for young musicians at the Music Workshop.

- 2.4. Witnesses at Mass: Fr. Tom has asked a young man to give a 2-3 min. witness this Sunday on evangelization.

2.5 Big screen TV for MQP? This would sit above the choir chairs and would project the Scripture readings, music lyrics, and announcements. We have potential donors, but we want a screen size that will be useful but not overwhelming

### 3. New Business

3. Matter 14 conference at the Church of the Nativity in Timonium, MD. – report from attendees
  - 3.1. Shawn McDonough: It is as simple as greeting. It was powerful. Make the greeting positive. At Nativity, you are greeted at the parking lot, then the doors, etc. By the time you reach your pew, you have been greeted by 4 or 5 people.
  - 3.2. Steve Barretto: Strategic communications: Nativity's physical plant shows that everything matters. We mirror the outside world as far as doing things well. Know what will work in your own church's town. For example, in Timonium, Facebook works better than Twitter. Decide which things you should begin and which you should end. At Nativity they stopped producing a Sunday bulletin.
    - 3.2.1. Operations: The entire staff works on the weekend, which is where the action is.
    - 3.2.2. Behind the Music: Providing different genres of high quality music is difficult, so Nativity chooses to provide one style with excellence. Worship music is important. Demand quality. You are not loving someone if you let a bad music person continue. Believe it or not, talented musicians are in your pews.
  - 3.3. Joe Balzano
    - 3.3.1. Building a Healthy Organization (key note speaker): Build trust and be open to conflict. Both are necessary. This has been born out in Joe's professional career.
    - 3.3.2. Be Restorers: Mission. Aid; rehab; development. Pick one. Go narrow and deep vs. wide and shallow, so people can see some significant results. We can't be expert in everything, so we leverage different agencies and groups as strategic partners.
    - 3.3.3. Get out of the pews: Help every church member to get involved in ministry. Make it easy to get involved, in little ways at first. Recognize and encourage potential volunteers.
    - 3.3.4. Can we talk: Don't be afraid to have conversations that matter. If we trust one another, then conflict will bring us to see new and deeper truths. At Nativity the full staff meets new members every Sunday afternoon. Strive to *really help* the new members. They are the key to growing the church. The greeting ministry at Saints Mary and Joseph parish is uneven.
  - 3.4. Fr. Tom Frink
    - 3.4.1. Don't rob God: Teaching people that giving is a spiritual action. "You are robbing me of my tithes. Put me to the test. See how I will bless you" (Mal 3:8-12). People who tithe in our days witness that God has blessed them for it.
    - 3.4.2. 30 The youth program has 30 teen musicians—and they are excellent. That is a testimony to what is possible.

#### 4.0 Pastoral council retreat small group discussion reports

The Way Forward: After discussion, the following areas of parish development were chosen for emphasis during this next year:

Young families – including use of social media (9 votes).

Volunteering – using our time and talent (8 votes)

Evangelization – suggest working in small groups (7 votes);

Additional topics of continued Long Range Planning and Local Mission to the Needy were identified. These will be placed in the “parking lot” for future action.

Council members will email Steve Barretto by Dec 30<sup>th</sup> with their ideas on what should be done next, choosing from the sub-committee reports the action items that can be accomplished most easily.

**Note: Our overarching concern at this time is to be a “Welcoming” parish.**

#### **4. Other Business**

4.1 Members of Pastoral Council will be available as “greeters” at some of the Masses

4.2 Ministry Sunday will be held after all Masses on January 31, February 1 at MQP, and February 7, February 8 in the auditorium at St. Joseph.

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Ryan

**Next Meeting**

**Thursday, January 8, 2015**