



Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

January 31, 2023

In attendance: Linda Caliguiri, Elizabeth Cilano, Lisa Coon, Annamaria Falzarano, Fr. John Firpo, Jim Peters, Gerry Streb, Gina Reeder, Mark Stechschulte, Ken Whitley, Jr.

1. Opening Prayer (Jim)

2. Approval of Minutes: 11-15-2022

3. **Bankruptcy update** was shared by Fr. John in an executive session.

4. Staff (and Other) Updates (Fr. John)

Multi-parish task force of 7 parishes: Holy Cross, Mother of Sorrows, St. John, St. Lawrence, St. Mark, St. Leo, St. Charles

- The Task Force is looking at how to cope with fewer available clergy, how to share resources and not duplicate services and offerings among parishes.
- For example, there are 22 masses each weekend celebrated by the 8 priests. As priests retire or are pulled to other parishes, looking at how to best offer mass times. Another example - Faith Formation at several parishes coordinated by Amanuel Malik. Donna Gray is now youth minister for St. Lawrence and St. Charles.
- **Overall question:** how can the parishes continue to thrive moving forward?
- Gina Reeder, Dave Steklenski and Fr. John represent St. Charles on task force - each parish has 2 representatives and the Pastor.
- Task force also looking at identifying parishioners who have left and finding a way to bring them back.
- Additionally, ideas are shared among parishes - for example, St. Charles' email blast, visitation program - other parishes interested in these things.
- Possible scenarios moving forward - A pastor could serve more than one parish. The Pastor's #1 job is ministry, but he is also responsible for finance, operations, etc. Lay leadership now taking on temporal needs of parish to free up Pastors for ministry.
- This entire process is a 'refashioning what it means to be church'.
- Question from council: Could a lay person do anointing? NO -since it is linked to penance it must be done by a priest.
- There is also consideration of creating subgroups to look into other areas such as increased lay participation in church ministries and encouraging an increase in vocations.

Upcoming dates:

Boy Scout Sunday this week (Feb 4 & 5); Girl Scout Sunday is March 11/12.

St. Charles Sacraments for 2023

Feb. 28 - 1st Penance

April 29 - First communion

May 10 – Confirmation (at Sacred Heart Cathedral)

*sacramental preparation shared among parishes, reception of sacrament done at home parish

Ash Wednesday - Feb 22 - Masses at 8, 11:30 am and a prayer service w/ ashes at 5pm

Charlie's Angels (children's choir) is back and working with Marcia Sheremeta

Home visitation - 110 parishioners in nursing homes or private homes are visited and/or kept in communication by volunteers. Also active is the card ministry which sends quarterly cards to the homebound. Birthday greetings are sent by the home visitation team.

No one has been hired for social media as of yet.

Parish finances currently look good.

Parish council limits - several members in 2nd terms, will be needing new PC members at the end of the fiscal year.

5. Update: Strength In Numbers - the survey has been posted on social media, sent with the weekly parish email as well as printed in the bulletin. To date, there are 5 responses. Two responses are from people who clearly are not familiar with these monthly prayers. Very little positive input was received.

Idea: contact parishioners who used to be involved w/ Borromeo Prayer Center to see if they're interested in helping w/ this effort - Patricia Scouten might have names. Tabled until March meeting.

6. Discussion of Synod Action Items

A. Feedback: Homily Evaluation Process

Comments from council regarding their 4 week evaluation of each homilist - process was:

Stressful but wonderful, a good opportunity
learned a lot

helpful to go back and listen to streaming

helpful to put thoughts from homily in writing

discovered a way to listen differently

important to objectify oneself to review each homilist fairly using same criteria

appreciated homilists in different way

questions on evaluation were helpful, homilies were well structured to those questions
(homilists didn't know they were being evaluated)

Recordings very useful especially if hearing is difficult while in church

Lively discussion around how different people attending mass can be. Some are there out of obligation - more difficult to reach them - we're dealing with a varied audience. Everyone is different - in different spots of spiritual journey, different stages of life.

Important to create an environment where all feel welcome.

Fr. John's input: This was a very helpful process - evaluation causes one to listen differently, to struggle as a listener. It provided great feedback for the homilists, including learning what to emphasize. It is disheartening for the homilist to see people not listening.

Pope Francis - wrote a lot about preaching recently. He emphasized the importance of preaching 10 min or less. His points mirrored our evaluation. Parishioners can prepare for the homily - read readings ahead of time. As a result of the Pope's statement, there was a subsequent article published that suggested 7-8 points on how the laity can prepare to hear a homily.

Hearing and listening are skills that need to be honed and practiced.

There was a suggestion to provide prompts for parishioners regarding homilies such as reading scripture ahead of time and suggesting questions to facilitate discussion after mass.

Liturgy is for active participation - mass attendees are not there just to be entertained!
What people hear is the work of the spirit. Sometimes they are deeply moved, sometimes just a small nugget is taken away.

Joanie and Fr. John are working together to formulate the information gathered in order to share it with the homilists.

Regarding acoustics in church:

1. Acoustics of church effect speaker - bodies in church create noise.
2. Mics for music sometimes not good.
3. Public speaking cannot be done in a conversational tone - speakers need to project, speak slowly and directly into the mic.

Suggestion: a night of formation for lectors - in church.

Abbreviated discussion of B and C due to time constraint.

B. Discuss Item #6: Identify ways to support parishioners aging in place

Are there any specific suggestions beyond home visitation to support family members who are caregivers for spouses or other ailing family members? How to support caregivers? What resources can we provide for them? This is not to suggest a new ministry but rather a way to connect caregivers/service to meet their needs.

C. Discuss Item #7: Promote parish-wide events and evaluate for effectiveness

What is the best process for the Parish Council to evaluate events in regards to expense, staff/volunteer time commitment and achievement of identified goals. What are the plans for Lent and any other events for Spring and Summer?

Are we reaching the objectives of an event? Why are we doing things - are they effective?
Resources are limited - how best to use them? ie - If it's a fundraiser, did it make \$?

7. Other Items

Trainings were done at St. Charles for AED before covid - narcan training also - will this be done again?

Discussion followed regarding importance of having people identified at each mass who have expertise to help in a medical emergency.

Ushers/staff could be trained in these things, training can be expensive.

Since they are primarily offering collectors this may not be appropriate training for ushers.

Good Samaritan law may offer limited protection.

People attending mass could self identify as emergency responders.

Suggestion: a bulletin announcement or before mass announcement to ask for med professionals willing to help if necessary.

Future discussions -

Take a hard look at what we need to do - prioritize - lots of good ideas out there!

Next meeting: March 7, 2023

Submitted by E. Cilano