**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday March 23, 2022

**In Attendance**: Christina Boss, Marilyn Bridges, John Kelly, Craig Meisman, Rev. Tim Ralston,   
Jeanie Stephens (Chairperson), Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

**Absent**: Megan Neuhaus, Bill Rapp

**Guest:** None

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**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairperson Stephens.

**Opening Prayer**: Chairperson Stephens invited God to send his Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts. She then asked God for his grace to be opened to change. After thanking God for his blessings, Chairperson Stephens then prayed for grace to share our resources with Christ’s church.

**Faith Formation**: Chairperson Stephens read from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 5, verses 17-21. That passage has St. Paul telling the people that in Christ, they are a new creation. They serve as ambassadors for Christ and St. Paul implores them to be reconciled to God. The members then reflected upon the reading.

Christiana Boss commented that the reading tells us we should be thankful for previous blessings and embrace the future. Marilyn Bridges noted that we need to become a new creation. Chairperson Stephens added that we must respect each other, their charisms, and their traditions so that no one feels alone. Then Christina Boss said it is important to bring our cultures together in this process. Chairperson Stephens then concluded Faith Formation by reciting the Radiate Christ prayer.

**Minutes:** Council approved a motion to accept the draft minutes from the February 16, 2022, meeting.

**Project Updates –** Father Tim informed the members that:

* The sale of surplus property is no longer being pursued by Drees. They were unable to obtain the necessary government approvals. The parish will still receive a payment as previously negotiated.
* Some discussions have taken place among the priests within our new family of parishes. Fr. Wagner will continue to live at the rectory at St. Thomas More. Fr. Tim will move into the rectory at St. Peter’s campus. Fr. Tim will be meeting with the deacons soon to discuss their role in the new family. After Easter, there will be meetings among the family parishes.
* The Lenten presentations are going well. Fr. Tim encouraged attendance with Lourdes virtual pilgrimage experience next week (March 29 at 6:30 p.m.). A week later, on April 5 at 7 p.m., there will be a presentation on the Shroud of Turin.
* On June 8, we will have a relic of St Bernadette. It will also be here part of the following day then it will travel to another parish. Details of devotions around this relic are being worked out – maybe an evening mass on the 8th.
* The parish is still seeking a festival chairperson (or co-chair). John Dickhaus is exploring children ride options.
* Confirmation for St. Bernadette’s children will be on May 3 at Cathedral. It will be in conjunction with St. Ann’s of Groesbeck.

**New Business**

* Chairperson Stephens announced that she will soon be meeting with the Chairpersons from the other parishes in our family.
* Christina Boss asked about mass attendance. Fr. Tim replied that it was down a little this past weekend but has been increasing in recent weeks.
* Chairperson Stephens asked about allowing sign of peace once again but without touching. While it has been observed being done, Fr. Tim noted that the practice is optional.
* Chairperson Stephens informed the members that she recently attended a conference about healing prayer and inquired about the possibility of reinstating the healing prayer ministry at St. Bernadette. Fr. Tim said it was a possibility but wanted more information before proceeding.

**Beacons of Light:**

*Note: Several days prior to the meeting, Chairperson Stevens e-mailed some Beacons of Light documents to the members to review before the meeting. In addition, she provided directions to view and/or download additional information about Beacons of Light from the Archdiocesan website.*

Chairperson Stephens began the dialogue by admitting that it is difficult to find a starting point to discuss the process. What is important, she indicated, is that everyone has an opportunity come together and that everyone must remain positive and share what we believe. The members then began asking questions and discussion several options regarding the implementation of the Beacons of Light process.

Priest Assignments/Mass Schedule: Fr. Tim indicated that he intends to rotate among the four churches and so other priests will do the same. It is unlikely that parishioners will know what priest will be at what mass on a given day. Fr. Tim indicated that it is good for parishioners to become familiar with all the priests. It is anticipated that there will be at least one mass each weekday somewhere within the family.

Sharing: Ministries and programs will be shared among the parishes. Announcements of events can be printed in all bulletins.

Timeline: The entire process is to take five years. A schedule for merging Pastoral Councils, Finance Committees, and other parish functions will be made after July 1, 2022.

Lay Personnel: The long-range plan is to train lay ministers (servers, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, etc.) so that they can perform the same duties at any church if necessary. By September of this year, a Leadership Planning Team is to be formed to assist with the transition. This team is not the same as Pastoral Council. Assistance from the Archdiocese or other resources may be used to move the process along.

Evangelization: Eventually there will be an Evangelical Team to assist with that ministry within the family.

School: At this time, the school ministry is not impacted.

Chairperson Stephens reminded the members to look at the available information, particularly the *Guiding Principles, Vision Points, and Parameters* document.

Fr. Tim encouraged all members to keep praying for the process.

**Ending Prayer:**  A Hail Mary was recited in honor of the consecration of Russia and Ukraine this Friday.

**Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

**Next Meeting – Wednesday April 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Parish Center**

Approved: April 27, 2022