**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday April 27, 2022

**In Attendance**: Christina Boss, Marilyn Bridges, Rev. Tim Ralston, Jeanie Stephens (Chairperson),  
Bill Rapp, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

**Absent**: John Kelly, Craig Meisman, Megan Neuhaus

**Guest:** None

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**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Stephens.

**Opening Prayer**: Chairperson Stephens thanked God for being here this day and for being with us. She asked for His guidance, grace, and mercy.

**Faith Formation**: Chairperson Stephens read from the Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 21, verses1-14. In this passage, John writes about the time St. Peter and other disciples went fishing one evening. After catching nothing all night, Jesus appeared on the shore and told them where to cast the net. They filled the net with fish. They then had breakfast with Jesus. This event was the third recorded appearance of Jesus with the disciples after His resurrection.

To Christina Boss, the passage tells us that the disciples were finding nothing on their new path and were resorting to old ways, namely fishing. Chairperson Stephens reflected that she and most others, including the disciples, have experienced doubts about Jesus. Father Tim noted that Jesus came to them while they were doing a routine task. Marilyn Bridges commented that those who believe without seeing are blessed. Chairperson Stephens added that they stilled obeyed Jesus and did what he asked. Father Tim pointed out the enthusiasm of Peter upon seeing the Lord. Chairperson Stephens commented about the informality of Jesus sharing breakfast with the disciples.

**Minutes:** Council approved a motion to accept the draft minutes from the March 23, 2022, meeting.

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

* Drees indicated that the purchase of church property did not proceed due to the existence of two ponds on the property and Drees’s interaction with Township officials.
* Newly ordained Deacon Kelly from St. Thomas More is being reassigned and will not be part of our new family of parishes.
* Fifty (50) children from St. Bernadette and 31 from St. Ann’s will be confirmed next Tuesday.
* About 23 children from St. Bernadette will receive their first Holy Communion on Sunday May 1 in the afternoon.
* The attendance during the Easter weekend was about 700 total (100 for the Easter vigil mass and 300 each for the Easter morning masses).
* St. Thomas More has hired a new Principal (Michael Collins) who will also serve as the parish’s Music Director.
* Work continues on the parish festival. Some co-chairs have stepped forward, but more assistance is being sought. There will likely be no rides this year.
* He has selected an experienced person to assist with the Beacons of Light implementation.

**New Business**

Fr. Tim informed the members:

* About the need to replace the school roof this year. Quotes are being obtained. Financing is not yet defined. A “raise the roof” campaign was one option mentioned. Using Stievenard funds was another option. He also reminded the members that the school has no air conditioning. A roof mounted air conditioning system was previously mentioned as the best option to add this to the school, so this may be a good time to include that work. That cost is also unknown currently. Bill Rapp indicated that it would be the ideal time to add the air conditioning. Christina Boss said that the need for air conditioning during the school year is short but that many families expect it.
* That he is exploring options for a “family” Pentecost service/activity with the other members of our new parish family. He asked the members for suggestions.

Bill Rapp:

* Inquired about the ceiling cracks seen in church. Fr. Tim is aware of this condition that has been visible for several years. It is believed to be due to repeated changes in the temperature in the church. Maintaining a constant temperature may prevent the problem but it would adversely impact the utility budget.

Chairperson Stephens:

* Asked about possible improvements to the church’s sound system. Fr. Tim responded that it has been looked at and some settings have been changed to improve the sound.
* Reminded the members that the church does have a hearing assistance system available.
* Inquired about some alternative plan for funeral assistance particularly regarding to space and food preparation to avoid disappointment
* Mentioned that the women at St Mary’s and St. Peters have invited the women of St. Bernadette to an upcoming retreat. Perhaps St. Bernadette could sponsor a future event or program.
* Informed the members that she met with the parish council presidents of the other churches and was encouraged.

**Beacons of Light:**

Chairperson Stephens asked the members to state who are we as a parish. What is important at St. Bernadette? The members responded with the following:

* St. Bernadette is welcoming. Several members agreed with that statement.
* Having programs is another defining item. Fr. Tim added that attendance at two recent events were about 100 each.
* The parish is very committed to its school
* The grotto is important. It is a nice place to take a family.
* The parish participation with St. Vincent DePaul. The members agreed that many parishioners like to help
* There was a concern expressed about of lack of meeting space on the campus.

Chairperson Stephens concluded the discussion by advising the members to stay informed of the Beacons of Light process. She mentioned the articles printed in the Catholic Telegraph.

**Ending Prayer:**  Fr. Tim led the members in the recital of the Glory Be to conclude the meeting.

**Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Next Meeting – Wednesday June 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Parish Center**

***Note: This meeting was postponed until 7:00 p.m. on October 12, 2022***

Approved: October 12, 2022