**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday February 5, 2020

**In Attendance**: Christina Boss, Marilyn Bridges, John Kelly, Craig Meisman, Megan Neuhaus,
Rev. Tim Ralston, Bill Rapp, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

**Absent**: Jeanie Stephens

**Guest:** Liz Igram, School Principal

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**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Fr. Tim.

**Faith Sharing/Opening Prayer**: Craig Meisman began the meeting by reading sections from the website ([www.ourcatholicprayers.com](http://www.ourcatholicprayers.com)) about the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. He read that the prayer was written by Pope Leo XIII in 1885 after recalling a vision of Satan and evil spirits engaged in a war with the Church. His vision included seeing St. Michael cast Satan back into hell. St. Michael serves as a protector of the Church and protector of souls from him particularly at the time of death. We should not assume the devil is outmoded or just a character to frighten us. He is real and his greatest asset is camouflage, the ability to make us believe he doesn’t exist. He is real and we should not be afraid to ask St. Michael for help in fighting him.

The prayer to St. Michael was recited at every low mass until 1970. In 1994, Pope John Paul II allowed, but not required, churches to once again recite the prayer. A prayer card with the prayer to St. Michael was distributed to all in attendance. The members and guest then recited the prayer.

*St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.*

**Minutes**: The minutes from the December 4, 2019 Pastoral Council meeting were approved.

**Parish School Report:** Liz Ingram, School Principal, began her presentation by asking the members if they had any questions from the handout that was distributed at the December meeting. There were no questions. Christina Boss did ask about the status of Ohio’s ChoiceEd program. Liz Ingram responded by stating that the State legislators had little time to consider changes once the true impact of the criteria established for the program was implemented. At this time, the legislature has moved the application deadline to April 1 instead of February 1. For now, only the deadline has changed, not the criteria used to determine underperforming schools. Applications are being accepted and given a waiting list number and then placed on hold at this time.

She then reported on her efforts to enhance the school’s presence on social media by acquiring an app. She is testing an app that will provide rapid responses to inquiries and flexibility in distributing information. The initial cost is $8,000 and there is an annual cost based upon the number of children. While the cost is a factor, it is important to be more relevant and meet today’s expectation for a thriving school. If not, we will fall behind. Ms. Ingram is seeking funding for the app.

With enrollment, the school is currently in a good place, but where will it be in five or ten years? She proposed the creation of a shared vision. With such a vision, it is then possible to seek funds to fulfil that vision. The condition of the school building doesn’t always reflect the quality of the education being provided. Impressions make a difference to parents considering a school for their children.

Megan Neuhaus added that parents compare what we offer at St. Bernadette to other school like St. Thomas More. Liz Ingram continued by stating light and cleanliness makes a difference. Bill Rapp asked Ms. Ingram about her vision. She responded by recalling elements of a study done several years earlier. She would like to re-visit that study, create a vision with the study included, and then hire a person to promote (and fund) the vision. Fr. Tim reported that the parish is working on a vision but, he also stated that the Archdiocese is currently examining options for parishes in the future to address the number of available priests.

The members then briefly discussed the potential impacts of the local school levy to be voted upon in March.

**Report: One Faith, One Hope, One Love**: Chuck Cullen distributed a handout with the most recent results from the Archdiocese Capital Campaign that began in 2015. He reported that through December 31, 2019, our parish has donated $729,169. This has resulted in a rebate of $205,501. For St. Bernadette, final contributions are expected to be made by the end of summer this year.

**Pastor’s Corner:** Fr. Tim informed the members that:

* Lent will begin later this month. The parish will have fish fry dinners and Stations of the Cross.
* A penance service will be conducted on March 10th. The “Light Is on For You” penance service will be held on March 24th.
* We anticipate one adult and four children to join the Church at the Easter Vigil mass.
* Anthony Marcelli from St. Bernadette will be ordained a Deacon this year. He will be here to give a sermon afterwards.
* There is no new information on the Archdiocese regional parish planning efforts. The parish is preparing data for the analysis.
* Mark and Cindy Henderson will take over the Baptism preparation program.

**New Business**:

* Christina Boss proposed a magnet as a way to show pride and promote our parish. Fr. Tim mentioned that there is a supply of 75th anniversary magnets remaining. The concept (design and cost) will be explored.
* Christina Boss inquired about ways the church and school can work more together, making connections to enhance both entities. Having children holding church doors was one example. A shared meal with children and parishioners was also discussed.

**Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting - Wednesday April 1, 2020** (See Note below)

Faith Formation by Marilyn Bridges

Approved: March 16, 2021

Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no meetings were held between March and November 2020.