

Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council Meeting February 8, 2018
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. after Evening Prayer at Holy Redeemer. There were no changes to the minutes of the meeting November 9, 2017

Present: Msgr. Kevin Holmes, Deacon Ray Lukesic, Marc Laudonio, Linda Abelman, Jayne Bischoff, Diane Budyak, Paul Kachelmeier, Karen Paschke, and Tracey Reitz.

I. Discussion of Hospitality Team Meeting

Tracey went over the Hospitality Team Meeting that was held on November 29, 2017 and what we discussed:

- Signage for the two churches to make the churches more navigable, including signage for parking and restrooms.
- Having donuts after the masses to help promote fellowship.
- Encouraging ushers to be very welcoming.

She said the Parish Welcome Pamphlet has been completed, and 300 copies are being printed. They will be distributed at the Welcome Table, and placed at the kiosks at each church. The next meeting will be to evaluate where we are at she said, and to look at what it's like to be a newcomer.

Msgr., said that we also will be talking to people who have recently joined the parish, and see what they think about the process and the good things and bad things. He said that the Welcome brochure will be the topic of his bulletin article the second week of Lent.

Jayne asked if we would post it on the parish website?

Marc said that it mostly will be for the Welcome Table,

Msgr. said it might be interesting to think about the website in terms of the Welcome Pamphlet.

Paul asked if we could put some Welcome Pamphlets at places in the downtown area like coffee shops and other places, and would this help people new to the area learn about the parish?

Msgr. said that most of that searching for information about a local parish happens online.

Tracey said we will be doing more with that this summer too. She said that what we have done on the Hospitality Team is to follow up on what the Pastoral Council had talked about.

Msgr. said that going to having the monthly coffee and donuts is easier to organize than the brunches. You can do it more frequently, and it's a thing that is easier to mingle at. He asked is it better to do downstairs or upstairs in the Narthax? There is an advantage of building on

people's tendency to linger in the Narthax. In March on March 18th when we have coffee and donuts scheduled next it will be in the Narthax and we can how it works.

Linda said we can try it and for the next one have it downstairs and compare them.

Tracey said we can start slowly and build on that.

Linda said she does not mind doing it once a month.

Msgr., said the once a month coffee and donuts aligns our two churches. He said that when he has a Baptism on the 3rd Sunday then he would not want to have it in the Narthax.

Tracey said the Hospitality Team is more action oriented than the Pastoral Council is designed to be.

II. Maintenance vs Mission-driven Parish

Tracey said the books "Forming Intentional Disciples" and _____ were used as background. We are looking at what is the charism of our parish as a downtown parish.

Msgr. said this is the kind of meta question a pastoral council should be discussing. He told a story about how parish festivals used to be really big, and some people in the parish might only be involved in the parish festival, but not going to mass. This was a lack of reflection of what a parish is really about, and how it was too much about maintenance.

Marc said the mission of the Diocese is that every person would encounter Christ in a personal way.

Jayne said that people can have an encounter with Jesus Christ through me, but I must be living my faith. People's stories of their faith are a good way to relate to each other.

Marc said this fits into Number 5 too on the table of Indicators of a Maintenance-Driven vs. Mission-Driven Parish, a way of transmitting the faith through testimony.

Tracey said reading the lives of the Saints and sharing how they lived is inspiring.

Marc said how do we create space for that to give parishioners a chance to do that.

Linda said could there be a weekly time to do that?

Msgr. said he could see evening prayers during Lent or during the summer.

Marc said maybe during the Easter season.

Msgr. said we could have evening prayer along with some sharing. You could record it and put it on the website.

Marc said it could be prayer and testimony. He said that there will be a special Lenten event the week before Holy Week on forgiveness.

Tracey said that a little while ago the Pastoral Council had started talking about choosing goals to work on, and prayer and community have been the ones we have been working on. She said that she will send out an email with a list of the ideas that we have talked about at this meeting to everyone.

Marc said the question is how do I live this life, and what is the fruit of it? Hearing someone share about this is really good.

Tracey said that even if we meet as a group doing this that will be good.

Diane asked could we get the parish into it at the start? The Mission is not what people do every day.

Kathryn said the Pastoral Council wanted to do this a few years ago, and reach out to people one-on-one, but we did not have time to do it. At the Offertory maybe individuals could write down what they are praying for as a small way to be involved.

Msgr. asked how ushers choose people to bring up the gifts at Mass, and do we put out a sign requesting people to do this?

Paul said that when he is ushering he tries to choose a family or couples so there are 3 or 4 people to bring up the gifts.

Kathryn and Jayne commented that ushers could chose 3 or 4 single people too.

Karen said that she remembers the Year of Mercy and the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, and she found things she could do. Could we give people ideas how to do this?

Marc said that regarding the roles of people, that our goal shouldn't be getting people to fill all of these roles, but to encounter Christ. As they get involved they should see ways to encounter Christ in the parish and the church.

Tracey said that she chose these as the four steps to follow:

- Getting people involved.
- Discerning their charism.
- Commitment
- Take part in ministries, and transform the secular world.

Msgr. said the one we do do is helping people experience the Mass. If you go to Mass and the

people around you are engaged, then you will be engaged. He said that Chris Smelzer is approaching ordination as a deacon, and he has a project he is doing, and it is formation of lectors. If they prepare more than they are better able to help their fellow parishioners. He said we do have this intention for people to be disciples, number 1 Catechetical, and number 2 through service.

Paul said that they try to incorporate spirituality and prayer in our SVdP Conference.

Linda said we need to help the new people in the parish to be involved and then help to instill a fire in them.

Msgr. said we can create the opportunity, and then help them with formation.

Tracey said she has heard of the Called and Gifted Workshops.

Marc talked about them and said you need to be ready to find out what are the spiritual gifts God has given you. He said that maybe like Jayne said we should not be thinking of too concrete of things.

Tracey said she sees the process as first getting the feedback of the Pastoral Council members, and then going forward.

Jayne said that she would be comfortable with having this on the meeting agenda again.

Diane said are there seeds of this we can plant?

Msgr. said that the earlier idea of testimony has a lot of potential. There are different ways it can be shared, live, recorded, written and through emails, and we have many delivery methods.

Marc said that a video would reach a lot of people and we can do this easily.

Kathryn said we need to experience what this community is first.

Marc said maybe we can invite a personal testimony from everyone. He said that Sherry Wedell would encourage prayer.

Tracey said that this is beautiful timing with Lent coming up, and praying intercessory prayer. She said she can think about what else she can do for the parish too.

Jayne talked about her faith, and said why don't we build a community here.

Diane said that this is a beautiful testimony and would be inspiring in a video.

Msgr. said that he thinks there's a lot of value in those questions about how am I bringing the presence of Christ into my home life, workplace, and where I am, and how am I being a disciple

to help others encounter Christ. In the Parish and outside of it, this is pretty mission driven.

Marc said a community of disciples on a mission who are following the Lord, and want to encourage others to encounter the Lord. He asked how are the people who go to mass here a community of disciples on a mission?

Msgr. said he has consoled himself over our constant loss of parishioners that maybe this is our mission.

Karen said that she has seen how people who helped her with rides then might be interested in where she was going, and where they were dropping her off.

Tracey said if she sent out an email in about a month could we have another meeting to continue this discussion?

Paul said that he remembers the small groups that were formed in the Parish and read the book together "Forming Intentional Disciples".

Msgr. said the challenge is always following through and that it goes somewhere and bears fruit. He said he remembers doing the Called and Gifted workshops, and the small groups, and reading and discussing the Sherry Wedell book. He said that this has been good, but the feeling of all of us moving together has not always been there. Some momentum would be good. Can we relate to small things like having donuts after mass that brings people together to encounter Christ, and just talking to each other and building up the communion of the parish.

Linda said if a newcomer comes this will give them the opportunity to meet others.

Msgr. said that people could say that the mission is to meet someone new, and invite them to encounter Christ.

Msgr. said a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45