



Pastoral Council

October 26, 2016

SUMMARY First Meeting!

Prayer: Jim MacDougall

1. **What is the Mission of the Pastoral Council?** A review of the diocesan guidelines.

There are many questions in the parish about what the council is, what it does, how are people selected, etc. We will be conscious of this as the parish "gets used to" having a council. We will use the diocesan guidelines as our own for the first year.

It also surfaced that we will benefit from a parish Mission and Vision Statement. We may wish to work on that this year. Also, a Pastoral Plan can help guide us into the future, especially in light of our centennial in 2022 (five and a half years away).

2. **Review of our last meeting;** follow up from the parish Listening Session.

There are so many areas of our parish that we can talk about! Council members brought up some of them – young families, welcoming, after religious ed is over church attendance drops, conflicts with sports schedules, etc.

The group agreed that having a *focus* for our first year is very helpful. We'll continue to focus on YOUTH and SUNDAY MASS, as per our previous discussions about the Listening Session report. We all agreed that there is plenty of work to do!

3. **Sunday Mass:** report of the 2 meetings of the *worship reflection group* (Fr. Frank and John O'Hare)

John O'Hare is part of a reflection group focused on Sunday mass. The group has met twice already with Fr. Frank. The summary of their first meeting has been printed in the bulletin. John explained that the group is reflecting on how our church sanctuary is set up how we might adjust that in the future. Music and environment are important at this time. As a first step, the group is looking at *Advent and Christmas*: for example, where to place the Advent Wreath, how to make the church inviting for the celebration of Christmas masses.

(Council members surfaced suggestions about the environment, involving children and young families, etc. John and Fr. Frank pointed out that all our liturgies follow the church documents, Roman Missal, etc. There are some things that we experimented with in the past (e.g., acting out the gospel), which are now not permitted. We are faithful to Church practice and also as flexible as possible. We will continue to look at all our options and be as creative as possible.)

We will be using the same schedule as last year for Christmas. Fr. Frank will invite people especially to the overflow mass in the hall at 4:00/4:15, in order to ease some of the pressure in the main Church. The Knights help with parking, which is a challenge only at the 4:00 mass.

The worship group will also be looking at music selections for Advent and Christmas to make sure that they are “participatory.” Next will be Lent and Easter, the High Point of our church year as Catholic Christians.

Note: the council is responsible for ensuring that the parish stays “on track” with planning, etc. It will not be involved in the *details* of liturgy – that will be for the worship group and the pastor and pastoral staff.

4. **Youth:** input from youth ministers regarding steps

There was much discussion and input about Youth Ministry, and the Next Step that we need to take. Many ideas surfaced about this: use technology, have a teen band, do service, have trips, check out the Congregational church, asks Tony Belizzi to come in, talk to John McNamara, look at Life Teen program, etc.

The group reached consensus on a major point: *The young people need to own this ministry as “their own” – We need to listen first of all to our young people!* Parents need to be consulted and “heard” as a separate step.

Father Frank will reflect on this, continue to seek advice from “experts” and bring to the council some concrete ways to initiate this first step.

5. **Stewardship:**

The Finance Committee has met three times the past weeks and advised Father Frank about our finances and addressing the serious needs. They have recommended that we return to our Annual Stewardship Renewal. This will be an Awareness Weekend (homily about disciples of Christ and our parish family) on Nov 6. Accountability Weekend, Nov 13, when a finance committee member will talk to the parishioners about their own living out discipleship and stewardship and reviewing how we use the parish resources (finances), Commitment Weekend when a pastoral council member will give a brief reflection about being part of our parish family, living out discipleship and stewardship (Nov. 20)

Fr. Frank will have materials prepared to help the Witness Talk speakers:

5:00 Jim MacDougall

7:30 John O’Hare

9:15 Ginny Lutz

11:15: Elenore LaPorta

THANKS to those who have volunteered for these Witness Talks!!!

6. Dates for the coming year: Wednesdays at 7:30-9:00 p.m.

11/30

12/14

1/25

2/15

3/29

4/26

5/24

6/21

Prayer on 11/30: Linda

7. Other Business