



St. John the Baptist Parish

Pastoral Council

December 14, 2016

Agenda

All were present, except Dr. Barbara Fontana, who was excused.

Prayer: Vinny

1. Review of Last Meeting's Summary (All)
2. Pastor's Report and News: Christmas Pageant involved over 35 children and was well-attended, good spirit, good to see young families. They contributed refreshments and celebrated in the hall afterwards. The North Shore Chamber Choir had their winter concert in the church the following afternoon. Eucharistic Ministers are receptive to the revised procedure to assist at masses. We are now following the Roman Missal which guides us during all liturgies.
3. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: update and discussion. Bishop Perez will celebrate the 4 in church and Fr. Frank the 4 in the hall. K of C will help with parking. We will try our best to "put our best foot forward" for these masses. The Council will review the 2016 Christmas schedule (which is the same as 2015) and see if it is helpful to adjust it for next year. December 18th in the afternoon Fr. Frank will gather parishioners and decorate the church for Christmas.
4. Youth: update (Fr. Frank): Three young adults are coming to the 7th and 8th grade religious ed classrooms and walking through the questionnaire with them. They have been well-received – good questions, energy, etc. They have completed ½ the classes thus far. We also will schedule a Focus Group and invite home-schooled 7th and 8th graders and the teens of the parish. After the information is gathered, we will host a Focus Group for parents. Rich Rossin offered to organize and summarize the data gathered.

We also talked about working with nearby parishes in youth ministry, and Shoreham and Manorville were mentioned. The Middle School Rec program and Riverhead Library were also mentioned.

5. Parish Vision and Mission Statement: The Council received an outline of the 4 main points of a Mission Statement: Identity, Purpose, Function, and Future. We will reflect on this and move the discussion further in January. Issues raised included: (1) do we need help/guidance in this process? (2) can we have samples from other parishes? (3) what about a Vision Statement as our ideal? (4) the Pastoral Plan is closely connected to our Vision and Mission.
6. Other Business: The council discussed safety issues in crossing North Country Road before masses when there is no guard assigned by the Town. Vinny offered to contact Riverhead and see what we need to do about this. BSA Troop 161 has a Scout who hopes to do his Eagle Project involving the parking lot and will look into this.

7. Roundtable: items mentioned include (1) those who offered to organize coffee hour were told to speak with Fr. Frank (2) why aren't the Elections held in the hall anymore? (3) the discrepancy between revenue and expenses in the "pie charts" is very serious (4) K of C membership challenges and activities (5) spring "ministry fair" when all parish groups can seek new volunteers.

Fr. Frank is delighted to invite the Council members to the rectory Open House next Monday, December 19th, 7-9. He is very grateful for everyone's dedication, and the guidance that he is receiving about the parish.

Next meeting: January 25th. Prayer -- Elenore

Closing Prayer (Fr. Frank)