

Minutes: Sacred Heart Pastoral Council November 12, 2017

Members present: Mike Bradley, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Bill Engels, Jim Evermann, Kevin Owens (president), Erik Patera, and Charlotte Snekvik. Also present: Mary Sutherland, parish secretary.

Fr. Steve led the council in prayer.

Reports from parish boards (only the most urgent due to time constraints):

Knights of Columbus: They will paint the back room in the parish house during the leaf raking on Saturday November 18.

Social Justice Ministry: They asked Scott Cooper, Director of Parish Social Ministries, whether the parish should join the Faith Action Network, a group of churches and other organizations that lobbies for social justice issues in Washington State. He said a better alternative is the Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC), the political arm of the three bishops. The Social Justice Ministry proposes that the parish join the WSCC. After some discussion the members asked Bill Engels to forward more information on the WSCC to them by email in order to further study the organization's goals.

Parish Auction planning meeting: The first planning meeting is Wednesday, November 29 at 7 pm in the social hall. One of the parish group leaders had heard that all the auction money was going to the parish this year. Nothing like that has been contemplated. The groups all work hard on the auction and most rely on it as their main fundraiser. The parish will still get a percentage.

Companions of Jesus: This is a group of lay people which formed about a year ago and meets to pray the Office and try to discover how to make a difference with social justice issues. Fr. Steve met with them and reviewed their statutes, which were developed with the help of a priest and conform to canon law. They would like to meet at the church since at the present time all of them are Catholic. Fr. Steve would like to welcome them to meet here. The council members agreed.

Baptisms at Mass – feedback: People like having baptisms during Mass.

Exploratory Committee Re-presentation follow-up & feedback: The staff is putting notes together from the re-presentation that will be in the bulletin and online. The meeting showed the need for statistical analysis of church attendance, parish growth, etc. Fr. Steve is working on that and will get help. He plotted the total Mass attendance at Sacred Heart for the past 27 years by adding up the weekly attendance figures in the bulletin by year. (Prior to 1989 the bulletins were bound in such a way that the attendance figures can't be read accurately). The total in 1989 was 29,000, since then there has been a steady decline. It reached a low point in 2007, during the height of the diocesan sex abuse/bankruptcy scandal. For the past eight years total attendance has hovered at about 20,000. In 1989 there were about 180 more people at Mass on a given weekend than there are now, so the parish is not really growing. He will continue to gather statistics and there will be a follow-up presentation. We need to look at city and school district projections for growth as well.

Thanksgiving: Mass is at 10 am. Members suggested that we have a food drive for the collection.

Church clean-up & leaf raking: Saturday, November 18, breakfast at 8 am, raking starts at 8:30. The staff will put a list of indoor tasks that need to be done on the white board in the social hall. The masking tape on the bronze on the front doors needs to be removed with a gentle oil.

Prepares: One person from the social justice ministry and two from the Knights so far are interested in helping get this ministry for families in crisis started in our parish. We are getting information about it and working on a date for a preliminary meeting. This program respects life by helping people.

Updates to pastoral council Constitution & Bylaws: Kevin Owens handed out a preliminary update. It's been five years since the last one. One change could be that existing parish groups and boards (except the Finance Council, which is on an equal level with the Pastoral Council) would be put under several "commissions" (i.e. Faith Formation, Liturgy & Worship, Social Justice, etc.). Each commission would send a report about all the parish groups under it to the council members electronically before each meeting, and just one in-depth report would be given at each council meeting. Kevin will email the suggested updates to the full council so that everyone has time to analyze them before the next meeting.

Coffee & doughnuts: The council is responsible for Sunday, November 19. Plans were made.

Next meeting: Sunday, December 10, 9:45 am.

Submitted by Mary Sutherland.