

Minutes: Sacred Heart Pastoral Council, September 10, 2017

Members present: Mike Bradley, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Bill Engels, Jim Evermann, Lorraine Farrand, Aurora Horstkamp, Keri Jones (outgoing president), Kevin Owens (new president), Erik Patera, Charlotte Snekvik and Sandy Vickoren. Also present: Al Farrand (vocations ministry rep.), Donald Snekvik, Mary Sutherland, parish secretary, and David Whelchel (Know, Love & Serve rep.)

Fr. Steve led the council in the Lord's Prayer.

New council president: Kevin will serve as president from now on so Keri can step down now instead of in December.

Reports from parish boards:

Vocations Ministry: Al reported that a Vocation for Marriage and Single Life Potluck is tentatively scheduled for February 10, 2018. The second annual catered Vocations Dinner may be on April 21, 2018. Last year's dinner brought in \$3,000 for the seminary and other causes. First meeting of the committee was to be that day at noon, September 10.

Knights of Columbus: The Lentil Festival food booth took up many hours, but profits were low. They will revisit that event. More money was made parking cars in our lot for two WSU football games. First meeting is Sept. 20.

Faith Formation: Preschool - sixth grade classes begin Sept. 17. Youth Group begins Sept. 20.

Communion for the Homebound: Bill had heard that taking Holy Communion to the homebound (including assisted living, nursing homes, etc.) is very rewarding. We could use more people in that ministry. Fr. Steve and Mary will schedule a training for new ministers and encourage parishioners to attend.

Know, Love & Serve: There is a diocesan meeting in Spokane on Friday, September 22, with a theme of evangelization and social ministry. David will attend and report back.

CDA: Members helped at the Lentil Festival booth. First meeting is Sept. 19.

Social Justice: The Roger Williams Symposium and an advocacy meeting at UCC church are coming up. Articles are in the bulletin. They would like to see some of the food bank donations brought up to the altar at the Offertory.

Fr. Steve agrees, and the ushers will be asked to make up a lightweight basket at each Mass and find someone to carry it. They are also involved with Family Promise, recycling, Helping Hands, etc.

Parish Auction: Jim explained that because of the priest transition the committee hasn't met, so it would be very hard to have it this fall. The committee will meet soon and determine a good date for the spring of 2018.

Parish house, parking lot maintenance & patrol, masonry: A volunteer removed the mold from the back office in the parish house. The smell is gone. The same volunteer jacked up and repaired the broken beam in the attic so the dip in the roof is gone. The roof will be fine after some shingles are replaced. The building doesn't need to be torn down. It needs painting. Fr. Steve will let parishioners volunteer since contractors won't do small projects. It is riskier to leave things in bad shape.

Fr. Steve and some Knights re-striped the parking lot for a couple hundred dollars rather than paying thousands. Some Knights patrolled the parking lot on a Saturday evening, had positive interaction with students, and discouraged them from parking overnight. The Knights had a welcome back barbecue for students in the area on the first football Saturday. The social justice ministry put a recycling can in the parking lot. The hope is that students will put their empty bottles in there instead of breaking them in the lot. The first weekend it was 1/3 full.

Some of the masonry outside has been patched, but the brick benches around the gathering area to the right of the church entrance are sinking and have to be removed. Fr. Steve suggested that an iron railing be installed instead.

Church & annex audio/visual update: The new speaker system had to be taken home and put together. It works. Kevin O. and Kevin Johnston hope to install it in the church the weekend of September 16/17.

Website update: A parishioner from Fr. Steve's former parish of St. Augustine updated their website and then ours. It is about \$20,000 worth of work. We have online giving, and our Facebook page is embedded. You can see the last four postings without being on Facebook. We need to link to our parish library site, which is hosted by David. And we should be on Instagram to reach young adults. The diocese may buy parish communications software, enabling parishes to send group notifications by text. Or members suggested we could use *Reminds*, a free service that sends texts and/or emails.

Sacraments: Fr. Steve explained the new sacrament prep program to the council, which was approved by the Faith Formation (FF) board. Recently, parish children received Reconciliation in third grade, and Confirmation and First Eucharist in the spring of fourth grade after two years of preparation. However, the Church wants children to receive the sacraments as soon as possible. Parents will determine when their children are ready and prepare them with the help of the parish. The children will attend Faith Formation classes and there will be classes for the parents. The Bishop will still come yearly to confer the sacraments. The parish should work to keep children in faith formation after that. There could be short Reconciliation retreats for fourth graders to help them understand and become comfortable with it. And day retreats on various themes for middle schoolers and overnight retreats for high school. Gonzaga has some good ones.

RCIA, etc.: The council and FF board approved moving the program back to Sacred Heart. It will be a formation process for people who want to enter the church.

LGBTQI outreach: The program began under Fr. Edgar without much conversation. Fr. Steve has been talking with other pastors involved in that ministry. He wants to know if the parish as a whole supports it. The conversation will continue.

Usher recruitment: Jim is working on it. We need more/new ushers at all Masses. They can be women, men, families.

Church plans: Fr. Steve would like the exploratory committee to present their report one more time for him and any parishioners who would like to hear it again or for the first time. We need to think long-term for the whole community.

Next meeting: Sunday, October 8, 9:45 am. Submitted by Mary Sutherland