

ST. SEBASTIAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 3, 2017 (at St. Sebastian)

MEMBERS/EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr. Larry Chapman, Stephen Dodridge, Michelle Hansen, Cathy Hoffman, Tom Jozwik, Jennifer Ohlendorf, Carole Poth, Delbert Slowik, Maricolette Walsh, Margaret Wiemer, Andrew Zeidler

MEMBERS EXCUSED/ABSENT: Laura Abing (exc.), Jim Ewig (exc.), Eunice Frieseke, Turquoise Loera

Leader: Del Slowik; Recorder: Tom Jozwik (for Jim Ewig)

PRAYER/FORMATION: Del offered an opening prayer based on John 8:25; a brief discussion followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faith Formation (Cathy): Minutes issued by the committee drew council members' complimentary remarks. Lenten discussion sessions are reportedly going well. Personal thank-you notes were sent to all catechists; one catechist, councilor Steve Dodridge, commented on his "really nice" card. It was suggested that next year's Faith Formation calendar be distributed to children and parents before school year's end. There was talk in the committee about a prospective women's retreat ("very much in the beginning stages"). There will be Saturday training for altar servers.

Finance Council (Maricolette): Considerable attention was paid to year-end budget projection (expectation: "in the black"). Finance chair Tim Heeley's goal reportedly is creation of reserve, or contingency account. Maricolette expressed the sentiment—which other pastoral council members seemed to share—that a five-year capital improvement budget is needed. Regarding the Seton initiative; while St. Sebastian School is expected to eventually join the program; that may not happen for several years. It was pointed out that contract negotiating is a process that varies from school to school.

Human Concerns (Jen): Ticket sales were down slightly for the Farmers' Market brunch—but overall Farmers' Market sales were up. Parish proceeds will be used for recycling bins for the gathering space. Also, committee members expressed desire to support a women's group, possibly a pregnancy support group. The committee as a whole was somewhat skeptical of MissionInsite based on early data available. The Lenten CRS Rice Bowl collection was discussed.

Prayer & Worship (Tom): Pastoral Council's positive reaction and Faith Formation's input regarding the proposed tri-parish formation on topic of Mass was relayed at March 21 P & W meeting. Anointing of the Sick was discussed at that meeting, and there was positive feedback at Council meeting in the aftermath. Very Important Parishes (VIP) event, slated to involve St. Seb's in November, was mentioned. Cluster/St. Margaret Mary joint Confirmation will be next month.

School (Steve): The topic of committee minutes was discussed. One or more Pastoral Council members expressed the desire to have access to minutes for school (and other council committees) more consistently. The importance of publicizing budget information was noted.

Stewardship: Laura Abing had been excused from the meeting, but it was reported that she is looking into grant funding to illuminate the church tower. Important-to-make buildings and grounds improvements are under consideration; more accurate dollar amounts/spreadsheet updating are being worked on in this regard. Maricolette and Del spoke favorably of an idea brought to the committee whereby people could sign up to fund various specific improvements (a practice of the Milwaukee Athletic Club, to cite one local institution). Mention of a St. Eugene (Fox Point) Parish model involving the use of cards to advertise and facilitate electronic giving also drew positive Pastoral Council response.

Old/New Business: Four Pastoral Council vacancies are anticipated as June 30 rolls around. Del urged committee liaisons to notify their committees of this (some committee members just might be interested in council service). Margaret has been collecting lists of prospective council members as well. It was suggested that some of the council members whose terms are ending could talk about council service from the pulpit during announcement time at Sunday Masses in late April or May.

MissionInsite: Steve revisited this topic. The Archdiocese purchased this program of aggregate (demographic) data from a vendor. Jen and Steve are figuring out ways of presenting the program to the various committees. The purpose of MissionInsite might be defined as bringing community demographics to a parish to help with that parish's pastoral ministry. Jen and Steve had originally hoped to present something more detailed to the council on April 3.

School Foundation: A meeting is scheduled for Friday (April 7). Goals are to increase the group and establish a "Friends of the Foundation" sub-group.

Review/Approval of March 6 Minutes: A couple of alterations were suggested. The last sentence of the "School" segment of the "Committee Reports" section was written to read, "Fr. Larry confirmed that the Archdiocese has strongly recommended that parish schools join the Seton Network." At the council meeting, Fr. Larry indicated it would be more accurate to replace the words "strongly recommended" with the single word "decided" in that sentence. In the last sentence on that same first page of March 6 minutes, it was suggested the word "grants" be used in place of "foundations." Maricolette subsequently moved for approval of the minutes, with Jen seconding. The motion passed without dissent.

Pastor/Cluster Administrator Reports: Carole presented to councilors a Ministry and Service Guide she developed for new parishioners.

The meeting adjourned with prayer.

Next Meeting: May 1 at St. Catherine.