

St Sebastian Pastoral Council Minutes  
December 03, 2018

Location: St Catherine Parish

In attendance: Jeffrey Altenburg, Dillon Ambrose, Fr. Larry Chapman, Eunice Friesseke, Michelle Hansen, Judy Hill, Cathleen Hoffman, Lori Larch, Steven Ragatz, Edie Schwabe, JoAnn Stasiewicz, Margaret Wiemer, and Jim Ewig

Guests: None

Excused: Maricolette Walsh

Lori called the meeting to order at 06:38PM.

### **Opening Prayer**

St Sebastian and St Catherine Councils met jointly earlier in the evening. The reading was from Isaiah 61: 10-11. Both Councils reflected on three aspects of the reading.

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Dillon moved to approve the November minutes. Eunice seconded the motion. There were no abstentions.

Lori noted that the school staff had written a card of thanks for the appreciation luncheon held in their honor last month. The card was passed around.

### **Clergy Abuse Discussion**

Father Larry reported he led a discussion/meeting on Clergy Abuse that was held at St Sebastian earlier in November. He stated the meeting was well attended. Several other Council members also attended and mentioned anger and concern were voiced at the meeting. Approximately 40 people had attended.

St Catherine and St Sebastian Councils have been in discussion over the past month regarding Clergy Abuse. Lori asked if there is value to including Mother of Good Counsel Pastoral Council as part of our discussion. The St Sebastian Council was supportive of the suggestion. The discussion changed to ways that St Sebastian parish can best support victims of abuse. Aside from prayer, and possibly a Mass dedicated to "Healing", the Council was not able to come up with other options. It was decided that the Council would revisit this topic after Pope Francis holds his world meeting in Rome in February 2019. It was felt that the world meeting may lend further direction and a more clearly defined goal(s) at the parish level. Margaret also suggested that the Pastoral Council take a message back to the Faith Formation committee and ask them how we support their efforts.

St Sebastian has its next Clergy Abuse meeting scheduled for March 17, 2019. The meeting is open to all who attended the November 18 gathering as well as any interested parishioners. Lori asked if we as a parish should format a response or plan by March 17<sup>th</sup>. It was again decided that it will be best to wait until after Pope Francis' world meeting. Michelle suggested that willing parish members share testimonials as to why they stayed in the Catholic Church after the Abuse became public. And possibly from people who have left the Church due to the abuse. Lori asked that all Council members continue to think and pray on the matter.

### **Parish Councils Congress Meeting**

Michelle shared that the Pastoral and Finance Council Chairs, as well as one of the Trustees will attend the 2019 Parish Council Congress to be held on February 4, 2019. The Congress will address potential changes to the parish norms. The Archdiocese is currently compiling suggestions for changes from the parishes. Suggestions are due by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

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The training of new Council members will also be discussed. Training may include updating our current manuals and developing new orientation videos. It was mentioned that we are all expected to read the weekly bulletin. There is a good deal of relevant parish information in there. The need to get orientation information in the new Council Members as soon as possible was also raised. This information should include a history of the Council and what it is expected to accomplish. Inclusion of flowcharts, org charts, and descriptions of what the various committees do would also be helpful. Lori will reach out to Carole and ask to have a copy of the Parish Council Manual distributed to all new St Sebastian Pastoral and Finance Council members. Michelle felt that a clear mission statement for the Councils should be included in the "Parish Councils Manual", and that the manual be made more user friendly.

### **Deanery Meeting**

Lori gave a summary of the Deanery meeting that was held in October. One of the topics discussed was the Norms and Appendices. The Council Chairs were tasked with reviewing their Norms, and offering suggested changes to the Archdiocese by December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Archdiocese holds the final decision authority on making changes to the Norms. The Norms apply to all parishes within the Archdiocese. The Council Chairs were also encouraged to review their parish appendices, which are parish specific, and make revisions as needed. This review process of Norms and Appendices also applies to the Finance Council. Carole will send out an electronic version of St Sebastian Norms to the Council.

The training of new Council members was also discussed. Carole has already completed an orientation for new St Sebastian Council members earlier this year.

The Deanery is looking to initiate a safety training program for Parishes. The Council felt St Sebastian already has a great head start. Mike Kamenski implemented a comprehensive plan for the Parish earlier this year.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance** – Judy stated their meeting was held on the November 28<sup>th</sup>. The current finances are trending slightly lower than last year. Joann Perleberg and the Council are working on next year's budget. The budget will be fairly similar to last year's budget. The bells have been fixed. New sinks are being installed in the school. \$5000 has been approved to rewire the computer room. A new online giving program will replace the current Electronic Funds Transfer program. With this new program, parents will also be able to pay for hot lunch and field trips, as well all parishioners can complete their weekly offering.

**Faith Formation** – Cathleen stated they met November 14<sup>th</sup>. The topic of struggling families and their inability to pay for faith formation was discussed. No final plan has been approved. There's more information to come.

The "Celebrating Saints" event held on October 30th was well attended.

There are plans to hold a spaghetti dinner for the faith formation teachers in the near future.

**Human Concerns** – Edie stated the committee would like to attend a future Pastoral Council meeting. The intent would be to share some of their initiatives and get feedback.

At least one member from the Teosinte delegation will attend a future Council meeting to give an update.

**Prayer and Worship** – Steven reported that the committee did not meet in November.

**Stewardship** - JoAnn stated that the "New Parish Members Chili cook-off", which began last year to help welcome new parishioners, will be held in February 2019. An exact date is yet to be determined.

She also mentioned that the "Spring into Action" event will return and be held in May 2019.

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**School** – Jeff reported the committee met on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Concerns were raised about the status of equipment in the computer lab.

The School committee is hoping to have a liaison appointed between the School and the Building and Grounds committees.

There was further discussion of teacher salaries and how it relates to increasing staff retention. Staff retention is not an issue at the moment, but the worry is we will eventually begin to lose teachers due to their rate of pay. In the meantime, Heather Grams is leading the staff with great energy and direction. Fr Larry has asked Heather to articulate her needs in terms of additional support staff.

**Administrators Report** – Carole distributed a handout on the Strategic Plan. In order to measure progress, Cathleen asked that the strategic plan remain on the Pastoral Council agenda.

**New business**

Judy met with Del Slowik to get ideas on Environment Ministry. We still need to find a replacement for Del, who performed this ministry for many years.

**Next Meeting**

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Monday January 7th, 2019 at 6:30pm at Mother of Good Counsel Parish.

The meeting adjourned at 08:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Ewig