

December 07, 2015: 07:47PM to 09:09PM

Attendees: Joan Arnett, Tom Jozwik, Margaret Wiemer, Delbert Slowik, Carole Poth, Michelle Hansen, Stephen Dodridge, Laura Abing, Judy Ballard, Turquoise Loera, and Jim Ewig. Excused: Jen Ohlendorf

Presentation by Paul Hohl

Paul's presentation to the Pastoral Council has been postponed until several key decisions by the Education Committee have been made. Paul is not yet prepared to discuss the Choice percentage.

Review of November Minutes – Tom motioned to approve with minor modifications, and Turquoise seconded the motion. There were no abstentions.

Major Points of Committee Reports

Communications

Laura reported on the following.

- There is still no formal committee that exists.
- There are some discussions that the Stewardship and Communication committees would be combined.

Faith Formation

As Jen was not present, there was no report.

Human Concerns

Judy reported that there was nothing pressing to share.

Prayer and Worship

Tom reported on the following.

- Last month Fr. Larry discussed the Pope's "Year of Mercy" Initiative.
- It was suggested that the communal reconciliation service reflect the "Year of Mercy" theme.
- The committee is exploring an anointing of the sick event during the upcoming Lenten season.

School

Stephen reported on the following.

- The school is using PowerSchool software; however, the software cannot provide information on a student's GPA.
- PAL is not currently licensed by the state. Historically, St. Sebastian's school has placed unattended students in PAL if they hung around school after 3:15. The committee is discussing options to address this situation.
- Further use of the Choice program was discussed. The Choice program raised its qualifying family income criteria to 300% of National Poverty Guidelines. The tougher qualifying eligibility has made it difficult to maintain the maximum number of Choice students. Paul proposes that when the cap is calculated, parish families enrolled in the Choice program be excluded. The committee voted on Paul's proposal. The tallied votes were 3 yes and 2 no. Several committee members were not in attendance. The vote was passionate and contentious. The committee chair resigned that night. The vote will be retaken at the next meeting.
- The committee also voted to add nine Choice kids to temporarily overcome the school budget shortfall.

- Michelle stated that the majority of the cap contention revolved around the ability of St. Sebastian to keep its Catholic identity. It was noted that no cap Choice student has opted out of the Catholic education portion of the school curriculum.
- Turquoise questioned the rights and responsibilities of Choice students. Have there been changes in the Choice program since St. Sebastian began accepting Choice students? This information would be needed for budgeting purposes.
- 14% of current parish families are participating in the Choice program.
- The committee will decide how many Choice students the school will accept during its meeting on January 10, 2016.
- Laura asked if we can't market St Sebastian's low percentage of Choice students as an advantage to enrolling in the school (i.e., St. Sebastian can create a niche for itself as a parish school noted for maintaining its Catholic identity)..
- The State also offers a Choice program. This program is available for students living outside of the city of Milwaukee. The Council thought there would be little chance of a "State Choice" child attending St. Sebastian's school.
- Stephen will ask Paul Hohl to further clarify what is exactly entailed to have Choice kids.
- Paul Hohl and chairman, Brent Nistler, will be asked to join a special Pastoral Council meeting on January 4th.
- Fr. Larry will make the final decision on the cap pending the Choice discussion.
- No School Committee meeting is scheduled for December.

Stewardship

Turquoise had nothing to report.

Pastor/Administrator Report

Fr. Larry had little to report due to the lack of time.

Finance Council Report

Due to lack of time, Joan's report was postponed.

New Business

New Councilors

Del asked Eunice, Judy, Jen and Jim to consider potentially re-upping during this period of discernment. Their decision is requested by the January 12th meeting, which will be held at MGC.

Closing Prayer – All prayed the Our Father.

Next Meetings

- Special presentation on Choice cap options: Monday, January 4th at 18:30- St. Sebastian
- Tri-parish meeting on Tuesday, January 12th at 18:30-at MGC

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Ewig