

Blessed Trinity Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 28, 2017 6:30-8:20 PM

Present: Fr. Joe Dominic, Deb Hasler, Peggy Heili, Kitty Klich, John O'Dell, Jim O'Neill, Ruth Pedroni, Kris Raeder, Terry Rotter, and John Russell/Sandy Jordan (Minutes)
Excused: Amy O'Rourke and Suzy Schmidtke

Opening Prayer "Our Father": Jim O'Neill

Committee Presentation: Eileen Haulotte (Director of Technology-Communications) – Eileen talked about the Blessed Trinity bulletin.

Approval of Agenda (Jim O'Neill):

Under New Business, add:

- RE Request—Christmas (John O'Dell)
- Weekly Bulletin Discussion (Jim O'Neill)

John O'Dell motioned to approve the agenda with the above additions. Deb Hasler seconded the motion. Agenda approved.

Approval of August 24, 2017 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes (Jim O'Neill):

There was talk before/after the meeting about changing the time of the Pastoral Council meeting from 7 PM to 6:30 PM. Sandy included this info in the meeting minutes. It was decided to remove this section from the meeting minutes. Kitty Klich motioned to approve the amended meeting minutes. Peggy Heili seconded the motion. Sandy will change the meeting minutes and resend them to the Fr. Joe, Pastoral Council members, and Trustees. Meeting Minutes approved as amended.

Commission/Committee Reports—Highlights:

- **Evangelization & Formation:**
 - **Evangelization:** No Report
 - **Religious Education (RE):** No Report
 - **Youth & Young Adult Ministry (Peggy Heili):** No Report
 - **Catholic Life Center (Terry Rotter):** Catholic Life Center's focus will now be working with families with teens and multi-generational activities. The Religious Education program will be working with families with young children. The next meeting is in October.
- **Human Concerns (Jim O'Neill):** **October is "Respect Life" Month:** please refer to the insert in the October 1 bulletin for the local (Mary's Room), national (Hurricane Soup Luncheon), and world-wide (Feed My Starving Children) opportunities to be missionary disciples.
- **Liturgy (Kitty Klich):** Next meeting is October 12.
- **Stewardship/Community Building (Deb Hasler):**
 - The Stewardship Commission had their second meeting with Barb Vite on Wednesday, September 13. Goals were set. It is a great group.
 - Our focus is young families, young adults and energize/engage.
 - Our meetings will be held the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Catholic Life Center-Meeting Room.
 - The next meeting is Monday, October 2. At the October meeting, we will discern a chair or co-chairs and a secretary.
 - Barb Vite informed the commission that normally the "Financial" Stewardship is held in the Fall (late September and before Thanksgiving). Also, the "Talent" Stewardship is held in the Spring (during Lent and before Easter). There is a lot of benefit to the parishes by doing Stewardship during Ordinary Time. Fr. Joe and the commission members decided for 2018 that we would follow Barb's suggested Stewardship schedule. There will be no "Talent" Stewardship in Fall 2017.
 - The commission will be reviewing the present Talent booklet. Also, how we can get more people actively involved in the parish.
 - Deb wrote a Stewardship article for the October 1 bulletin.

- **Finance Council** (Kris Raeder):
 - Annual Parish Meeting: Saturday, October 7 after the 4 PM Mass. Meeting will be held 5:15-6:15 PM followed by a meal (broasted chicken and all the fixings) and a social (Bingo with SCRIP prizes and card games). The event will end at 9 PM. Pastoral and Finance Council members are expected to attend. Emily & Chris Briggs and Julie Minter will also be speaking. Bob Bouche and Glander Prescription Plus are donating the beer and soda. Kris Raeder is working on the PowerPoint presentation and committee booklet. There will be a full-page Annual Parish Meeting insert in the October 1 bulletin. We are planning for 120 people. Jim O’Neill passed around a sheet of food items that Dianne Gatzke needs council members to sign up and bring to the meeting.
 - Fundraising: Parishioners have stepped forward to assist with fundraising. None of them want to chair the committee. More young people are needed. The names were forwarded to Amy O’Rourke and Dianne Gatzke who will be working with the group.
 - Kris is looking for a Finance Council member to attend the *Spirituality of Stewardship Conference for Leaders* to be held on November 3 and 4.
 - Joint Finance Council meeting will be held on Thursday, October 14 at Blessed Trinity. Some of the topics: budget process for 2017/2018, expense sharing between the parishes, and interparish billing throughout the year.
- **Archdiocese Planning/Deanery** (Jim O’Neill):
 - The Deanery meeting will be held on Saturday, October 21 from 9-11 AM at St. John the Baptist Parish in Plymouth. Barb Vite is the first speaker.
 - *Spirituality of Stewardship Conference for Leaders* will be held on November 3 and 4 at the Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center in Milwaukee. Jim, Kitty and Deb will be attending the Saturday, November 4 session. Please register yourself on the Archdiocese website. You don’t have to stay for lunch. Fr. Joe said the parish will reimburse your mileage expense.

OLD Business

- **Pastoral Council Meeting Time Change** (Jim O’Neill): The Council approved to change the time of the meeting from 7 PM to 6:30 PM.
- **Three Thoughts/Ideas on Ways to Improve Blessed Trinity Parish** (Jim O’Neill): Below is Jim’s handout the Council members received at the meeting:

This is a compilation of the list of things that we had all suggested, broken down by the number of persons who included each item on their list of ten things they would like to see happen in the next year or two. I believe we can use this to establish an agenda for the council.

The following item appeared 8 times on the submitted lists:

 - **The Pastoral Council host two community-building events each year. The 1st would be a parish festival. Target date for the initial event would be May 20, 2018, the Sunday between Mother's Day and Memorial Day weekends. The 2nd would be a more formal affair. A buffet-style, sit-down dinner to be held at The Village At 170. Target date for the initial event would be November 2018.**

The following items each appeared 7 times on the submitted lists:

 - **REALLY get behind the Stewardship Commission and support them as they start to define and implement an action plan to get parish members more involved in parish life. It can’t just fall to Deb as the liaison.**
 - **Put at least 1, preferably 2, young people on the Pastoral Council. They would have to be at least 14 years old, but not yet have celebrated their 18th birthday.**

The following items each appeared 6 times on the submitted lists:

 - **The Blessed Trinity Pastoral Council would seriously engage the St. John Evangelist Pastoral Council in talks, the subject of which would be the eventual merging of our two Pastoral Councils into one.**

- **Coordinate more events with St. John's to draw larger crowds**
- **Implement new member visits or dinner at existing parish member's home for new members...think Welcome Wagon**

The following items each appeared 5 times on the submitted lists:

- A welcome back campaign to encourage members to return and experience our new spirit.
- Try to raise or find the funds to update, and refurbish the church hall, so that it is a more welcoming space. Some ambiance down there is sorely needed.
- Station a person at the front door of the church to welcome and hold the door for everyone as they enter, especially the handicapped and elderly that need assistance to enter church.

The following items each appeared 4 times on the submitted lists:

- Implement an "At Home Mission" program once/month, year-round. Open to all members, not just students. Could be light household repairs, running errands, etc.
- A pre-kindergarten class beginning in the fall of 2018.
- Support parent training for young families: mentor system, experienced parents helping young parents, volunteer to be a mentor.
- Out of the 867 letters that went out, 534 did not respond. Perhaps we get a list of those (or whatever list you used to collect the responses), and each pastoral council member commits to reach out to X number of people, letting them know what's new, talk about Fr. Joe, invite them back, and try to get some intel as to why they might not be actively participating at this time.
- Outside Mass

The following item appeared 3 times on the submitted lists:

- Along the lines with everyone else, we need to bring people together at a couple of events, whether free or under the scope of Fundraising, it doesn't matter to me.

The following items each appeared 2 times on the submitted lists:

- Sharing our Faith – Catholic books, pass it on
- Sponsor a group of young adults to National Catholic Youth Conference, either this year in November, or next year
- Hold 2-3 fundraisers then a Parish Fun Day that would be free.
- Fall Festival (on parish grounds)
- Gathering area built in the front of church.
- Open House

The following items each appeared 1 time on the submitted lists:

- More direction for non-Catholics before the Eucharist.
- Put the enrollment code for SCRIP in the Bulletin
- For each of us to make every attempt to instill a calm and peace filled persona; by never taking part in gossip, or any conversation that is not a positive and reaffirming one especially on church grounds.
- Improve Parish Advertising/marketing—very poor, not in The Sun newspaper about last festival
- Make the Facebook link more noticeable on the Bulletin.
- Start holding rolling sponsor social events again (for example, Valentine's Day Dinner)
- Need Fundraising Committee
- Parish Excursion (for example, bus to Brewers game)

The following items did not appear on any of the submitted lists:

- Go Door to Door – parishioners that left parish.
- Something small, but could make a difference. Related to my situation with a non-Catholic spouse. Right now, any mailings to my home are addressed to me only. Subtle reminder that Keith is NOT Catholic. Weird, I know, but if he feels that way, there might be others. Perhaps one small step would be to change to "The Raeder Family" or the more traditional Mr. &

- Mrs. Keith Raeder, regardless of who is Catholic and who is not. That's why I asked if it was an Arch thing, that only confirmed Catholics could be in the records or something like that.
- More big "events" for parishioners
 - Put the weekly Church Bulletin on the website, possibly printing only one per month.
 - The **highlighted items** above are the ones that the Pastoral Council chose to work on this year.
 - We need to focus on the youth, young adults, and young families and revibrate the parish.
 - Jim asked Sandy to schedule the May 2018 parish festival.
 - Stewardship Commission: Deb will get back to the Pastoral Council with goals at the October meeting.
 - Young Pastoral Council members: one girl and one boy will be discerned.
 - Right now, we will place a hold on the merging of Joint Pastoral Councils and event coordination.
 - New Member visits
- **Password-Protection of Pastoral Council & Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes and Finance Council's Annual Parish Meeting Documents Status** (Jim O'Neill):
 - Fr. Joe contacted the Archdiocese about password-protection.
 - If the Pastoral/Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes and/or Annual Parish Meeting documents would have sensitive issues in them, we should remove that information from the documents before we place the document on the website or in printed form.
 - Per Fr. Joe and the Archdiocese, the Pastoral/Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes and/or Annual Parish Meeting documents do not need to be password-protected.
 - Per Fr. Joe, Sandy informed Eileen Haulotte that starting July 1, 2017, all Pastoral/Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes and/or Annual Parish Meeting documents will not be password-protected. She will make a note about this on the website.
 - **Christmas Weekend Masses** (Fr. Joe):
 - **Saturday, December 23:** 4:00 PM (Blessed Trinity) and 5:30 PM (St. John Evangelist)
 - **Sunday, December 24:** 9:00 AM (St. John Evangelist) and 10:30 AM (Blessed Trinity)
 - **Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve):** 4:00 PM (Blessed Trinity), 4:30 PM (St. John Evangelist with substitute priest) and 10:00 PM (it was Blessed Trinity's turn but the Pastoral Council decided because of the low attendance in the past at Blessed Trinity, it would be best if it was held at St. John Evangelist)
 - **Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day):** 9:00 AM (St. John Evangelist) and 10:30 AM (Blessed Trinity)

NEW Business

- **Weekly Bulletin Discussion** (Jim O'Neill): After discussion, it was decided to table this item until January 2018.
- **November 5 Parish Event** (Fr. Joe):
 - The Endowment Fund proceeds over \$1 million will be used for a speaker and catered meal for the parishioners on Sunday evening, November 5 at 5:30 PM. Fr. Joe is having difficulties finding a speaker for this evening.
 - The event will be called The Endowment Celebration.
 - Finance & Pastoral Council members plus other committee/commission members are needed to help coordinate this event. People who volunteered: Kris Raeder (Finance Council), Peggy Heili & John O'Dell (Pastoral Council), and Dianne Gatzke & Donna Stieghorst (Stewardship Commission). Jim O'Neill will get 2 volunteers from the Human Concerns Committee.
 - A discussion was held about possible other topics/speakers and dates for the event.
 - At the September Stewardship Commission meeting, Barb Vite suggested to Deb Hasler to contact Margaret Rhody, Associate Director of the St. Paul II Center for the New Evangelization. Margaret speaks on the challenges of millennials and how we might build bridges to connect

better with them. A question and answer time will be held after the speaker. The Pastoral Council suggested that Deb contact Margaret Rhody and see what dates she would be available to speak.

- **Joint RE Committee Request—Christmas** (John O’Dell):
 - The committee has a new chair, Cree Lesar. The committee also has new Blessed Trinity & St. John members with lots of ideas.
 - The committee would like to have the RE children do caroling after Mass during the December socials at each parish. They are also interested in doing a Christmas Pageant with the live Nativity. The Pastoral Council approved these items. The Joint RE Committee should choose their dates and inform the Pastoral Council.

Administrator’s Report:

- Fr. Joe will be on retreat the week of October 23-27. At the October Pastoral Council meeting, we can have discussions, but no decisions will be made.
- Fr. Joe will be off December 26-29.

Closing Prayer “Our Father”: Jim O’Neill

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Important Dates:

- Next Pastoral Council Meeting – Thursday, October 26, 2017
 - Opening Prayer & Gospel Reading – Kitty Lynne Klich
 - Standing Committee: Deb Hasler or Stewardship Commission Chairperson (Stewardship Commission)
- Social Sunday/Bulletin Article:
 - November 12, 2017 – Religious Education – John O’Dell
 - October 23, 2017 – Bulletin article due to Eileen Haulotte (eileen@btsje.org)
- Meet and Greet Schedule: Refer to monthly Lay Ministry Schedule (www.btsje.org > Blessed Trinity > Lay Ministry)