OLH Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2021

In attendance: Fr. Paul Sullivan, Dermot Bostock, William Burke, Bill Slavick, Kathy Eliscu, Mary Ellen White, Estelle Lavoie, Fr. Kevin Hughes

Opening scripture and observation: "to an unknown God" (Acts 17)

Minutes from April approved, with clarification on finance measures from Chancery vis a vis "cost cutting" – as Fr. Paul explained we have cut costs to the bare minimum and will not be cutting further, rather moving towards adding staff to increase ministry and programs. As a parish we have had the financial sustainability discussion and there is no third way. Cutting "overhead expenses" is necessary.

Item 1: Ignation Year celebration – Bill, Dermot and Fr. Paul met to discuss events over the next year to celebrate and observe significant Jesuit contributions and saints. Bill Burke will work with the Events committee to mark dates and begin planning events. He will host a zoom meeting and each Pastoral Councilor is asked to reach out to your ministry leaders to invite them to attend (or send someone to attend). One goal is to recognize the ministry work that is being done that reflects the four Jesuit Apostolic Preferences (Showing the Way to God, Walking with the Excluded, Journeying with Youth, Caring for our Common House). Some examples of the types of events, observations could be a link for the parish to explore Alpha USA, online sessions that explore Christian faith and build connection, or a musical celebration of Jesuit composers or hymns, or a Family Service Day, etc.

Reach out to your ministry connections now and then pass their contact info on to Bill Burke.

Item 2: Parish Picnic, 10th Birthday Celebration planned for mid-August / early September – possibly a pig roast, which would be a wonderful way to celebrate beyond the usual BBQ fair. Events committee will lead, PC will help host and plan along with K of C Councils & others in our community.

Item 3: Parish Planning Process: Fr. Paul talked about his desire to see school & parish collaboration in promoting parent/family faith formation. This followed a discussion on the viability of Catholic Schools in an environment of diminishing diocesan support – the national trend as evidenced in a recent WSJ article is wholesale school closure – St. Brigid's and most Catholic schools in Maine exhibit the opposite trend: growth and high performance throughout the pandemic that should be sustained. Fr. Paul observed that a committed group of parents, a new School Board and school supporters bodes well for St. Brigid's continued success.

Discussion of the article "Best Practices in Parent Faith Formation" which provides A useful blueprint towards building a culture that welcomes families and supports parenting as a "universal adult ministry". Fr. Paul provided an update on the job posting for staff (part time or full, to be determined – Financial Council approved and supports full time) outreach position –

family and parent faith formation will be a big part of this role. Hope is to have in place before fall, anytime after the new fiscal year begins in July.

Ministry Convocation planning still needs to begin – building on the theme of the apostolic preferences, and asking ministries (now) to engage in a vision exercise of their ideal scenarios. Dermot says we will pick this up at the next meeting.

Other items: Pentecost Sunday is May 23 and PC members will be hosting coffee hours between masses at each church (after the 7AM mass at St. Pius X and after the 8AM mass at St. Joseph's – please let Fr. Paul or Linda know if you can be there to help. If we have enough people we will announce it this Sunday – so far Elizabeth and Dermot have volunteered. We will need more help to cover both churches.

Dermot announced that Elizabeth will be moving away from the Parish and will thus finish this term as Pastoral Council member, her last meeting to be in June, when we welcome new members to the Council.

Next Meeting: June 9th

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Manning