

Pastoral Council Meeting August 11, 2021

Present: Fr. Paul Sullivan, SJ, Dermott Bostock, Karen Welch, Jim McCarthy, Kathy Eliscu, Mary Cafazzo, Peter Rickett, Estelle Lavoie, Scott Dalton, Bill Burke

Absent: Bill Slavick

Guest: Tonya Heskett – Tonya thanked all the Pastoral Council Members for their hard work as Council Members. Tonya asked for all the Council Members help with the Parish 10th Anniversary Birthday Dinner. Need help serving the food, checking people in, with the 50/50 Raffle, and clean up. Members are to let Mary know if they can help. Date is September 11, 2021. Time – be there at 5:00PM in the Parish Hall. Dinner will begin at 5:30PM. Would like to use Name Tags with Pastoral Council on the Name Tag as well.

1) Meeting began with **Prayer/Reading** from Deuteronomy 30:15-20. Estelle read the reading first. All members gave a 1 or 3 word thought/s that stood out to them on this reading.

Bill Burke did the Reading the second time. All members gave their thoughts on the reading.

2) **Brief Summary Report of the Planning Process.** Bill Burke submitted to all the Council Members prior to the meeting a statement regarding the planning process as to what has happened and where the process is now. Bill did a summary of **“Look”** and **“See”** with 10 items and the **“Do”** with 5 items. This is information for the new Council Members to get up to speed as to where we are now and a reminder for the other Council Members as to where we are now.

3) **Architectural review of parish buildings with a view toward recommendations, details on architectural consultant.** Consultant is Troy who is with McPherson, Simmons Bros. & Sons Architectural Design. Fr. Paul, Mary, Vince Ciampi (St. Brigid) & Troy looked at all of the Facilities. Troy will give several/couple of profiles/plans/ models that we can choose from. Troy will look at all the facilities, use the information that has been given to him from interviews with Parishioners, Fr. Paul, Mary & maybe Council Members as to our needs and where we are heading for the future as well as the financial reality of the parish at this time and what the projections are for the future. His report will be a professional, independent study/findings not influenced by having past or present ties to the parish. We will inform the Bishop of this next step in the process.

This evaluation will be an expense, but Fr. Paul feels it is well worth it. The Council Members all agreed that they felt this outside contractor was needed. This will take about 1 year or less to complete. When completed, this report can go to the Parishioners to see what they will support. In the mean time, the Parish will continue to make urgent repairs to get thru the year. A Capital Campaign will need to be done.

One of the concerns is the numbers of Parishioners attending Mass. Before Covid there were approx. 800 – 900 attending every weekend. Following Covid, the number is about 500 per weekend. The numbers are starting to increase, but they are not at the same level they were before Covid. Following the summer break, we will evaluate our weekend Mass schedule. We will maintain taking the attendance numbers at each Mass to see how the flow is going.

We will need to remind the Parishioners where we are going & what we have agreed to already. We need to vision where we will want to be in 5 or 10 years from now. We need to remember that this is an elderly parish. This is also something that Troy will look at and advise on. Troy will also project the cost of maintaining the updated/renovated facility as we go forward.

Another concern is that the young people are less likely to attend church. History shows that children that go to Parochial school for their childhood years seem to continue to go to church in their later years.

Next Step: A statement to go to the parishioners. Bill Burke will start a google document tomorrow for all the Council Members to join in with their opinions/suggestions to make this 1st draft to be done by the 20th of August. Would like the final draft to be ready for the next Council Meeting which is September 8th, 2021. This final draft will be accepted or modified at the next Council Mtg in September.

4) **Parish Life Coordinator Position** – 2 people have applied. Will be interviewed this week by Fr. Paul & Mary. Seem to be good candidates on paper.

Faith Formation is being revamped. Sandy is retiring at the end of August. The Director of Religious Education position has been posted.

Convocation – Meeting date for the Parish Ministry Convocation will be September 26th, 2-4:30PM following with Mass. Pastoral Council Member Liaisons to the Ministry groups will need to keep their groups abreast of the planning process that has been done and the upcoming September meeting. The agenda of the Convocation will be: Bringing the Ministries up to date on the planning process and the need for the Ministry goals to support Parish goals; to set reports on current activities of the ministries; to ask them what they need from the parish.

Are there more/different ministries needed for the Parish?

This is a very critical year for Our Lady Of Hope Parish.

We have a parishioner working with UNE – to connect OLOH Parish with the UNE students.

Suggested that St. Brigid students do projects for Park Danforth as they have in the past, before Covid.

How do we get more families into church – Some ideas were suggested for Parish activities.

Following the meeting Fr. Paul noted in an email to the Council Members that the Key now is that we focus on the priorities that have come out of the Planning & Discernment process.

Ended with Prayer by Fr. Paul

Next meeting will be September 8, 2021 @ 7PM

Respectfully submitted,
Linda McCormack
Parish Administrative Assistant