

St. Mary Pastoral Council

June, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Date: June 11, 2014
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Place: Jim Heald's residence (Sumner House)

Meeting Invitees

Pastoral Council members, Msgr. Michael Rose, Fr. Marcin Nowicki
Per Article VI of the Pastoral Council Bylaws: *All meetings of the Pastoral Council are open to all parishioners and members of the parish staff.*

Meeting Attendees

Pastoral Council: (N) denotes New P.C. members; Tom Estaphan, Bob Doiron, Jim Farrell, Jim Heald, Mike Nelson, Bob Terry, Susan Zybert, Marilyn Blanchard, Sheila Seed (N), Jorge Fernandez (N), Kurt Brenner (N)

Parish Staff: Msgr. Michael Rose, Fr. Marcin Nowicki

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Jim Heald, Chairperson of the Pastoral Council. The Council opened the meeting with a prayer offered by "Worthy Chairperson" Heald. The April 2014 Meeting Minutes were read and accepted, with comment from Bob D. that the evening's agenda did not include a number of items that had been tabled at the last meeting. Chairperson Heald agreed to cover those items during the Council Check-in portion of the agenda.

Council Check-in

- Bob Doiron asked about any new developments on the topic of the Capital Campaign, specifically if the restructuring of the debt had been addressed at the last Finance Ministry meeting. Fr. Mike offered that it had not been sorted out yet.
- Bob Terry reiterated his support for a "Sign Project." This will need to be more fully researched and budget requests will need to be presented to the Finance Ministry. Fr. Mike also noted that others would need to review, including Joe Favulli and Gerry Sullivan (to allow the Council to benefit from their design and installation experience). Jim H. and Marilyn will continue research including a call to St. Rose of Lima re. the method they use for determining the design of message signs as well as the calendar used to coordinate what signs are displayed when.
- Jim H. inquired about the possibility of private funding for the sign project; Fr. Mike said he is undecided on this and would take some more time to think about the pros & cons.
- Susan Z. asked about the Parish fiscal calendar and Fr. Mike confirmed that the fiscal year is Sept 1 – August 31.
- Jim H. offered to staff the next Welcome Table in September along with Jim Farrell. Fr. Mike noted that this is the same weekend as the Pancake Breakfast, so there may be many new faces.

New Pastoral Council Members

Three new Pastoral Council members have joined (there were only as many nominations as open positions on the Council, so no vote was needed this year). We welcomed the new Council members: **Sheila Seed, Kurt**

Brenner and Jorge Fernandez. We said goodbye and thank you to **Tom Estaphan**, who has faithfully served on the Council for years.

Pastor's Update

- Fr. Mike stated that the Diocese has requested more coordination of capital budgeting & planned expenditures with Parish finance committees, and noted that this has to do with a Diocese-wide drive toward better record-keeping and financial compliance.
- Fr. Mike mentioned that there is currently a water leak into the church hall in the area of the old stage and library, under the vestibule. This will receive immediate attention.

Evangelization & Adult Faith Formation

- Jim F. posed the question “What will we do in the coming year to follow on the notable successes of the past year, particularly the Robert Barron video series and the Matthew Kelly book distribution?” He would like to consider instituting a Men’s Breakfast that would lead to more involvement by men in the Parish.
- Susan Z. spoke about what’s coming up in late 2014...a monthly series is being considered. She also mentioned that St. Luke’s has a vibrant Women’s group that could be replicated at St. Mary.
- Kurt B. suggested that Daughters of Isabella is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and provides an organization/outlet perhaps not many know about.
- On the possibility of bring in a noted speaker, we spent several minutes discussing a variety of possibilities –
 - Jim H. recently attended a presentation at St. Cecilia’s in Boston that featured Fr. Malone, who spoke on Pope Francis’ message: “Who am I to judge?” was the theme.
 - Jim F. noted that we should seek a regionally-known speaker, as nationally-known speakers require large audiences and significant fees.
 - Jorge suggested we should have our key representative contact the organizers of the Men’s Conference to see if they have any ideas about a speaker we could bring in.
 - Jim H. suggested that his friend Fr John at St. Cecilia’s may travel to St. Mary, would do a great job and that St. Mary’s would probably just need to pay for his expenses.
 - From Jim F. – we should offer a guest speaker in October – generally considered to be one of the best months for such events in the Parish, with best attendance.
- Jim H. asked what the Council thought about doing another book distribution in 2015? The consensus was that this might be a reasonable thing to budget and do.

Cultural Diversity in the Parish

- Fr. Mike brought up the idea that we could possibly be doing more to be including Catholics from other countries (especially current parishioners). He is seeking suggestions about whether there is interest and, if so, how we might get started. This kicked off a great discussion.
- Fr. Mike suggested that we might hold an informal forum and reach out to parishioners from other nations and cultures to ensure their participation. We might learn about Feasts or days of Observance that are especially important (for example, he noted that a large number of Indian families attend the Good Friday evening Mass and that he’s learned that Filipinos pay special attention to Divine Mercy devotion, and that he’s heard that some parishes pray the Rosary in several languages).
- Tom E. suggested that Fr. Mike organize a focus group for the purpose of exploring these ideas some more, particularly with some of the families from other countries.

- Jorge said he'd like to see the Parish have an event such as an "international pot luck dinner" as a way to bring together the many native cultures represented at St. Mary's.
- Mike N. suggested that we set a goal to do some number of these activities in 2014-2015 to keep this good idea moving forward. For example, put an international pot luck dinner on the Parish calendar and convene a special meeting with Fr. Mike on this topic in the fall, with invitations to some number parishioners who might well represent the group.
- Jorge will inquire about this sort of outreach at St. Luke's to see what he can learn and share.

Nominations and Elections

- Chairperson - The following were nominated: Jim Heald (by Jim Farrell); Mr. Heald accepted the nomination; Jim Farrell (by Bob Doiron). Mr. Farrell declined the nomination; Bob Terry (by Marilyn Blanchard); Mr. Terry declined the nomination. Mr. Heald accepted another 1-year term as Chairperson.
- Vice Chairperson - The following were nominated: Jim Farrell (by Jim Heald); Mr. Farrell accepted the nomination; since there we no other nominations, Mr. Farrell accepted another 1-year term as Vice Chairperson.
- Secretary - The following were nominated: Mike Nelson (by Marilyn Blanchard); Mr. Nelson accepted the nomination; since there we no other nominations, Mr. Nelson accepted another 1-year term as Secretary.

Meeting Calendar

- The next meeting of the Pastoral Council term will held on September 10, 2014.
- On the fiscal 2015 calendar, Pastoral Council meetings will be held in the following months:
 - September 10, 2014
 - October 8, 2014 (Parish Ministry leaders will be invited)
 - December 10, 2014
 - February 11, 2015
 - April 8, 2015
 - June 10, 2015