

St. Mary Pastoral Council

October, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Date: October 8, 2014
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Place: Large Meeting Room (2nd floor)

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: Bob Doiron, Jim Farrell, Jim Heald, Mike Nelson, Susan Zybert, Marilyn Blanchard, Sheila Seed, Jorge Fernandez, Kurt Brenner, Tim Rivard, Ellen O'Connor

Parish Staff: Msgr. Michael Rose

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Jim Heald, Chairperson of the Pastoral Council. The Council opened the meeting with an uplifting prayer offered by Marilyn Blanchard. The June 2014 Meeting Minutes were read and accepted, with one change offered by Jorge F. regarding a point on page two (2).

Council Check-in

- Jim H. led a recap discussion re. the Family Festival, which was a success on many levels. Financially, it netted an estimated \$80,000. The Pub Quiz continues to be a rousing success, even under new management. The Council owes thanks to John Sliwoski and the scores of other volunteers.
- Mike N. asked about the weather dependence of the Festival. In short, would the Festival still be a success if there were a 3-day rainstorm? Although there is a lot of space under the tents, and some of the activities could be moved inside, a washout would probably have a big impact on the number of attendees and consequently on the net proceeds. This was discussed and generally not considered to be a major issue for the Parish or the Parish school.
- Fr. Mike noted that the Festival planners need to tweak the volunteer signup process.
- Discussion re. Fr. Pat Healing Mass and Concert on 10/19 2-5pm. Some concern and discussion about attendance.

Main Street Sign

We discussed the Main Street sign project at some length.

- Marilyn & Jim H. are talking to designers and contractors about the project. It's felt that the sign framework should be designed to be of similar utility and quality as the well-used sign at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Northborough.

- Fr. Mike expressed some concern about the look of the sign frame, as well as the signs themselves. He and most other Council members agreed that the design should retain the high quality and style of the Church building itself.
- We discussed uses of the sign and agreed that a Schedule of Masses and upcoming events would be appropriate.
- The current St. Mary School sign will need to be moved or redesigned
- Tim R. cited the need to consider lighting for the sign, which would no doubt be part of the design.
- Jorge cautioned the leaders to consider the sign placement with respect to the Nativity scene. Neither should block the view of the other from key viewing angles.
- Marilyn also shared a concept for a sign mounting on the front face of the church. It will be simple and might just read: “St. Mary’s Parish / Roman Catholic / All Are Welcome” - although we did not formally decide this. There was a bit of debate about “Church” vs. “Parish” on the sign.
- Jim F. recommended that the Sign committee should take this input, study it and put together a recommendation in the coming months.

Evangelization & Adult Faith Formation

Guest Speaker Discussion was led by Fr. Mike. We discussed the notion of deep-dives into specific topics following the “Rediscovering Catholicism” book distribution. Potential topics for these Sunday evening talks:

- Introduction
- Getting more out of the Mass
- Mary & the Saints
- Heaven, Hell & Judgment
- Pope Francis and the Call to Mercy
- Fr. Mike also suggested that we take suggestions from the attendees of the first couple of talks. What topics would most interest the people who are making this a priority?
- Susan & Tim (resident bookworms!) agreed that a book review format is useful – it spurs discussion, eliminates passivity at meeting; people more likely to come ready to listen & speak.
- We’ll use Media Center on 2nd floor, and begin the program on Oct. 26.
- Ellen asked that the schedule take into account the Religious Ed. calendar.
- Susan suggested that we consider offering another book. Her suggestion is “The Joy of the Gospel,” although it was not known whether this book could be purchased in volume for very low prices (like the Kelly books). Related to this, Jorge asked Fr. Mike to consider a book or material offering tips on evangelizing the Gospel.

Pastor’s Update

- Fr. Mike spoke about the continuing emphasis he’d like to see on “Diversity in the Parish.” Some ideas we discussed:

- International Pot Luck Dinner @ Pentecost. Fr. Mike has people in mind from Hungary, Indian [Malal language], Vietnam, Haiti, France, plus members of an African tribe
- Hail Mary & Rosary prayers in various languages
- Feast of the Holy Family (just after Christmas)
- Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Wednesday, October 22nd – Feast of Saint John Paul II, featuring -
 - Devotion / opening song / scripture reading / reading from JP II writing
- November – Fr. Mike discussions with newcomers to Parish from “foreign lands”
- We discussed a noon light lunch on a periodic basis after 11am Mass (Bob Doiron)
- Fr. Mike asked for volunteers to help with thinking through & planning, logistics, communication for these activities, and here’s what we came up with:
 - October – Jim H, Jim F
 - November – Tim R, Marilyn
 - December – Mike N.
- The last item of the evening was a reminder by Bob D. that we still have to deal with the Capital Campaign debt. Fr. Mike deferred discussion of this topic to the Finance Ministry at their next meeting.

Welcome Table Assignments

November: Doiron & Nelson

December: Blanchard & Terry

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 (postponed to October 8)
 - October 8, 2014
 - November 12, 2014
 - December 10, 2014 (Parish Ministry leaders to be invited)
 - February 11, 2015
 - April 8, 2015
 - June 10, 2015

The October, 2014 Pastoral Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.