

SJCC Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes - September 4, 2019

The meeting opened with a welcome to all visitors to the meeting.

Remembering Jim Parker: Former At Large member Jim Parker (4.25.1946 - 7.19.2019) was remembered as a very involved parishioner noted for his services as a Lector, and his active role in the Prison Ministries, as well as volunteering at Mother Seton Academy. A resolution was passed to write a letter to Jim's wife Sharon in remembrance of Jim.

Opening Prayer and Introductions: The meeting opened with prayer, led by Catherine Milstead, followed by introductions of all members of the Parish Pastoral Council.

PPC and Staff Input to Parish Pastoral Plan: This topic was introduced with a summary of progress to date by Bob Bastress. Over the summer, Fr. Neville, Bruce Baumgarten, Karen Spivey, the PPC Executive Team, and the Implementation Team spent some time assessing the current status of the Parish Pastoral Plan. In addition, Bruce Baumgarten reported that Dr. Christopher Yeung, from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, met with Bruce Baumgarten, Bob Bastress, and Karen Spivey and provided positive feedback and overall approval of the current status of implementation of the Plan. The overall goal is to utilize the Plan as a living document, whereby there is an annual assessment completed to ensure it is a proactive plan vs. a reactive one.

Addressing the Action Steps, it was concluded that there could be better focus on achieving the Good Fruits of the Plan. Additionally, Action Steps that have been successfully executed could be archived, and new Action Steps could be added. A survey was emailed mid-August to staff and all those whose role would include leading or assisting with the implementation of one or more of the Action Steps. The feedback from this survey was reviewed and used for the bulk of discussion during this meeting, with a small group breakout session providing input on specific areas that were felt could be adjusted. The feedback from each group was reported and discussed, and collected to be summarized by the Executive Team. Final recommendations to the Implementation Team regarding adjustments to specific Action steps will be provided in the coming weeks. A similar exercise will be conducted with staff and the results compiled into recommendations to the Implementation Team.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Neville invited John Pavlick to report on progress with the Welcome Committee initiative. About 15 to 20 new Welcome Ministers have been trained, and will begin working with new members in October. Fr. Neville reported that Mass attendance is down by approximately 200 people from the same time last year, assumedly due to the change in the Mass schedule. The collections are down by about 6%. A Pastoral staff day will be held on September 5, with Archbishop Lori attending. Religious Education will begin on Sunday, September 15. Fr. Neville expressed concern about possible congestion problems surrounding the exit of Religious Education classes and the arrival for the 10:45 am Mass.

Closing Prayer: The meeting was closed with prayer, led by Fr. Neville.

Attendance:

Fr. Neville O'Donohue, Terry Morse, Tony Gioio, Joselle Ruddle, Sharon Borcharding, Leigh Ann Gagnon, Rachel Wandishin, Catherine Milstead, Laura Bird, Josh Thiem, James Fetter, Emily Klezer, John Pavlick, Robert Muhl, Nick Pinto, Sue Wilson, Bob Bastress, Arlene Klair, Bruce Baumgarten, Gwen Lily, and Chris Patrick. Guests: Members of the Implementation Team, Tim Timmish, Madeline Jones, Bob Keagan, and Michelle Wolf.

The next PPC meeting is Wednesday, November 2, 2019, at 7 PM in the Tonry Room. Parishioners are welcome to attend and bring comments or concerns during the Open Forum. Email council@saintjoseph.cc