

SJCC Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes - October 2, 2019

The meeting opened with prayer, led by Catherine Milstead.

Action Step Small Groups: PPC broke into smaller groups to work on reviewing action steps identified as needing review. **Group 1:** Under the Liturgy Mission Priority, Group 1 was tasked with combining action steps 1.1 and 2.2 and expand the action step to cover the entire year. The group felt that the action steps should not be combined so that the website would still be utilized. They proposed the following: “Action Step 1.1: In a structured program covering a vast array of subjects and continuing across the Liturgical year, use homilies and key points throughout the Mass to engage parishioners more fully in the ritual and spiritual experience of Mass. Action Step 2.2: Provide teachings on the parish website which explain the principal elements of the Liturgy.” Fr. Neville was concerned that in 2.2, the language used was too weak and that if SJCC put things on the website, then parishioners would not be actively engaged. The PPC thought that the wording on 1.1 completed its task, but 2.2 needed more work. Chris suggested adding a 2.3 that addresses the liturgical experience. **Group 2:** This group was tasked with creating a new action step under Liturgy that addressed homilies. The proposed wording is “Create a process whereby a theme for the homilies is developed with a clear take-home message that can be applied in all aspects of life.” The PPC suggested the wording “For the purpose of creating a clear take-home message that can be applied in daily life, create a process whereby a theme for the homilies is developed.” **Group 3:** Group 3 was responsible for reviewing proposed wording from the implementation committee for Action Step 1 in the Sending Mission Priority and revise the language to emphasize the faith connection to service activities. The group proposed using the following wording: “Begin and end all SJCC sponsored activities inside or outside the parish campus with a faith-sharing prayer to build a foundation of support for one another and those they serve.” The group noted that training would most likely be required to make a prayer before activities a cultural norm and that committees should take time, whether during the event or a separate meeting, to faith share. **Group 4:** Under the Accompaniment Mission Priority, Group 4 worked on action step 2.2 so that it specifically lead to the good fruits. “Develop a family-focused faith in action program involving all the families of the parish to strengthen the faith and involvement of the family. Create opportunities for the whole family to participate in the celebration of the Mass, family retreats, and family service projects. Focus on faith development, prayer, sacraments, and service.” Bob Bastress commented that the proposed wording is radically different from the current action step. Terry Morse added that SJCC already has a good faith formation program, so an action step may not be necessary. The PPC proposed adding the wording “on an annual basis” to the current 2.2 action step and create a new action step with the proposed text. **Group 5:** Group 5 was tasked with creating a new action step under Sending that focused on vocations. “Through our baptism, we are called by God. We seek to raise awareness of particular vocations in the church. Religious and priestly vocations will be made visible through story and encounter. Parishioners are encouraged to explore whether they are called to a religious vocation. In particular, we: On six Sundays a year host a seminarian or young religious. Address the fear of parents regarding religious Vocations for their children. We pray regularly for vocations. Visual aids: banners, telescreens, bulletin.” Josh Theim suggested rewording the step to follow the same format as the other action steps. All of the proposed wording will be sent out via email to the PPC to comment further and will be reviewed at the next PPC meeting.

Pastor’s Report: Archbishop Lori has established the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, and the local representative is Consuela Petro from St. Johns in Columbia. The staff discussed a communication plan draft document, which will be presented to the PPC at a later date. There will be a change to the leadership of the Adoration Chapel. Fr. John Worgul wrote an article about the chapel, and Neville asks how do we galvanize, articulate and direct this facility we have. The average weekly attendance of Mass since July 1 is 172 fewer. Religious Ed has 20 more students in Pre-k - 5th grade and 5 more in middle school. The Sykesville historic Chapel will be closed October 13 - April 4 for renovations. The renovations are funded by the 150th Jubilee Capital campaign. Neville will be meeting with Archbishop Lori to discuss artifacts from the historic Sykesville Church and he is putting together a committee to help prep for that meeting. In September, 10 people attended a meeting about Racism in Carroll County and they will continue to meet about how to address Racism in Carroll County.

The meeting was closed with prayer, led by Fr. Neville O’Donohue **Attendance:** Fr. Neville O’Donohue, S.M., Terry Morse, Laura Bird, Sharon Borcharding, James, Fetter, Emily Klezer, Catherine Milstead Josh Thiem, Rachel Wandishin, Bob Bastress, Bill Jones, Sharon Borcharding, Robert Muhl, John Pavlick, Nick Pinto, Sue Wilson. Guests: Arlene Klair, Chris Patrick, Karen Spivey, Bruce Baumgarten