

SJCC Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes - February 6, 2019

The meeting opened with prayer, led by Joselle Ruddle

Christy Sommerville reviewed the manpower needs for the Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, March 15, which the PPC and commissions are supporting. A sign-up sheet was passed around and a Sign Up Genius will be set up.

Value 5 in Divine Renovation: Bruce Baumgarten resumed the discussion on Meaningful Community that was started at the last meeting. He reviewed the three questions posed to the group: How can we measure “meaningful community”? Does the importance of “community” raise implications for our community structure? Regarding the shift from “behaving-believing-belonging” to “belonging-believing-behaving” name at least one or two implications of this shift in the ministries of Adolescent Faith Formation/Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Ministry with newly marrieds/young parents, and RCIA. Attendees shared some positive experiences with small groups in this parish and others. The emphasis seemed to be on how welcoming everyone was in the groups, and that they have shared values and a common purpose. It was suggested that the CACOYA group come and talk to the PPC. Possible criteria to measure meaningful community included spiritual growth, service, sacrificial giving, and the use of a professional survey organization or instrument would be advisable. More discussion is needed on this topic.

PPC and Staff Input to Parish Pastoral Plan: Christy Sommerville introduced this topic by summarizing the discussion from the last PPC meeting, and then asked Karen Spivey to report out from the staff meeting. Karen indicated that the discussion at the staff meeting was similar to the PPC discussion. Two suggestions came out of the staff meeting: 1. Develop a communication policy that reaches out to the younger generations and improves communications throughout the parish. This would fall under the Mission Support priority. 2. Develop a process that would involve other people in the parish to assist priests in putting their homilies together. This would fall under the Liturgy priority. Much discussion ensued around item one about whether this is a policy or strategic initiative, how to develop action steps around this, where it would appear in the Action Steps, and if it should even be included. There was no clear consensus. It was suggested that the issue of improving communications should be part of every action step and not a concentrated effort. It was concluded that the parish needs a strategy and a policy for external communication. There was strong feelings by some that this needs to be included the primary document of the parish, the Pastoral Plan. Bruce agreed to put together some thoughts to be sent to the Executive Team. A vote was taken to determine if the item should be included in the Action Steps. There were 5 votes against, 3 vote for, the rest abstained. Fr. Neville voiced his concern that this was the wrong decision. Time prevented discussion of the second item, Homilies. A pre-discussion vote to assess interest by the PPC in this item resulted in only one affirmative vote, with the rest voting either no or abstaining. The Executive Team will discuss both items.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Neville commented that he was impressed with the productivity of the last PPC meeting, mentioning the good reflection, solid preparation through the homework assignment, and helpful work done during the meeting which proved beneficial to the subsequent staff discussion. Fr. Neville informed the PPC of the passing of Catherine's father, Oscar. Fr. Neville passed out a pamphlet entitled “The Journey To Racial Justice”. He mentioned that a parishioner met with him and informed him that she was withdrawing from the parish and going to St. Bartholomew. Fr. Neville stated that there has been extensive communication around the issue of respect life, particularly from a small group of people, indicating some discontent, which is taking a lot of his time. The solution seems to be the formation of a Respect Life group, reporting to the Service Justice and Life Commission, but not to be focused solely on abortion. Sharon Borcharding stated that at the last SJL meeting the entire discussion was on abortion. Reggie Bodnar will speak about life issues at all masses on the coming weekend.

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

Attendance:

Christy Sommerville, Terry Morse, Matt Antonishak, Chris Richelderfer, Josh Thiem, Jim Parker, Joselle Ruddle, Robert Muhl, Sharon Borcharding, John Pavlick, Sue Wilson, Dominic (Nick) Pinto, Neville O'Donohue. Guests: Karen Spivey, Bruce Baumgarten, Chris Patrick, Gwen Lilly, Tim Thimmesch

The next PPC meeting is Wednesday, March 13, 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