

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting September 7, 2022

Welcome and Open Forum: Terry began the meeting explaining that the order of business for PPC meetings will now follow the “Level 10” meeting format.

Terry announced that a photo of the PPC will be taken at the next meeting (Wednesday, November 2, 2022) and encouraged all members to be there.

Opening Prayer/Faith Sharing: The opening prayer was a reflection on 1 Timothy 1:12-17. Terry led the reflection and sharing.

Good News: Terry explained in the context of “Level 10” meetings, this is an opportunity for PPC members to share information about themselves (personal or professional). Fr. John thanked everyone for their prayers for Kathy.

Reporting: Terry explained that at this juncture of the meeting any reporting out needs to be done (i.e., parishioner or staff headlines).

It was reported that Tom White is coordinating an ACTS Retreat scheduled for the end of September at Bon Secours Spiritual Center. Tony Gioio reported on the Block Party scheduled for September 24.

To Do List:

- PPC Bylaws Review Subcommittee
- Coffee and doughnuts follow-up
- Parish Pastoral Plan
- Roll out of work in church
- Stewardship Sunday
- Financial Planning Session

PPC Bylaws Review Subcommittee: As the PPC Vice Chair, Rachel will lead the Bylaws review subcommittee. Ernie and Bob volunteered to serve on the committee.

Coffee and doughnuts follow-up: The issue concerning the use of the Chaminade Center for the new faith formation program conflicting with the long-standing coffee and doughnuts social each Sunday raised at the June 1 PPC meeting, was overtaken by the need to use the Chaminade Center for weekend Masses. Coffee and doughnuts will now be offered in the Cassidy Center.

Parish Pastoral Plan: Since Fr. John used a significant number of pastoral letters and pastor-grams this past year to explain the Pastoral Plan to the parish, a review of the Pastoral Plan will be tabled until another year.

Roll out of work in church, Stewardship Sunday, and Financial Planning Session: Fr. John explained how these three issues are interrelated.

IDS (Identify, Discuss, Solve): Terry explained that at this point in the “Level 10” meeting format, matters to be dealt with by the PPC in this particular meeting need to be ranked and then discussed and acted on in priority order.

The items to be ranked were:

- Book Discussion (*The One Best Thing*)
- PPC Involvement with Formation
- The “Big Quiet”
- Rollout of work in the church, stewardship, financial planning

Fr. John commented that we don’t need to rank these items because they are all of equal importance.

Bob suggested that in the future, the Executive Committee rank the items before the PPC meeting.

Book Discussion (*The One Best Thing*): PPC members were to have read the Introduction and Chapter I of *The One Best Thing* for the meeting. Prior to viewing the video link for Chapter I, Fr. John introduced the book and why it was chosen by SJCC. In brief, Fr. John posed the question: Why do some people have a desire for spiritual growth? He believes *The One Best Thing* answers this question. This book is catalyst for people to understand they have such a desire.

The One Best Thing will be used by parents with children in the sacramental preparation (1st Eucharist and 1st Reconciliation) grades. Parents must accompany their children in this program. Terry added that this approach to family faith formation links to the recommendations of the PPC subcommittee on faith formation.

Fr. John reported that we have 30 people from SJCC who are helping out as small group leaders. He also shared his very positive experience with the Vacation Bible School this summer.

Following the video, Fr. John walked the PPC through the reflection questions in the book. In closing, Fr. John said he is hoping to create a space for people in the church to allow them to encounter God.

Terry suggested that because the chapters are so brief, the PPC complete all of Part II (38 pages) before the next PPC meeting. Fr. John concurred with this suggestion.

PPC members were invited to journal their notes, thoughts and reflections in a separate notebook, rather than using the “Notes, Thoughts and Reflection” pages in *The One Best Thing* book itself, as the books may be reused.

PPC Involvement with Formation: Fr. John encouraged PPC members to be small group leaders. At present, we have 30. Ideally, we would like to have 50. Small group leaders must have completed VIRTUS safe environment training.

Rollout of work in the church, stewardship, financial planning:

Work in the church: During the work on the two structural pillars in the church, it was discovered that two more pillars are affected. This will cost significantly more than was projected in the budget. The parish is working with the AOB to apply for a grant from the Knott Foundation. The Finance Commission is meeting to discuss.

Stewardship and Financial Planning: Fr. John will be preaching on stewardship at all Masses for Sunday, September 18, and Sunday, September 25. He hopes parishioners will be more intentional about their giving. In between these two Sundays, on Thursday, September 22, SJCC will offer a session on Financial Planning Basics and Considerations Across Different Generations for all ages and all levels of financial/investing knowledge. Child care will be provided.

On October 2 and 9, the parish will begin a capital campaign to help cover the costs of the structural repairs and the stained-glass windows. Renderings of the stained-glass windows will be displayed in the narthex of the church. Fr. John has already begun soliciting donations for this effort.

The “Big Quiet”: Fr. John plans to begin a series of pastoral letters on sexuality as humans. The letters will also invite people to share their thoughts on a blog platform. Fr. John emphasized this is not about a culture war, not an academic debate, but purely pastoral. Fr. John said he has a small group with whom he has shared the first few letters, including Fr. Neville and Terry, as Chair of the PPC. He read the first letter to the PPC and said that maybe eventually small groups could be formed. Margaret suggested that small groups be ready to go with the 1st pastoral letter.

Wrap Up: Tony Gioio reported that the Mission Council is fully staffed and plans are underway to hold a St. Joseph’s Festival in the Spring of 2023.

Closing Prayer: Fr. John led the closing prayer.

Attendance:

PPC Members: Fr. John Worgul, Terry Morse, Rachel Wandishin, Bob Geldmacher, Jane Miller, Margaret Patrick, Mark Steinbrunner, Ernie Tucker

Corporators: Gwen Lilly, Chris Patrick

Mission Council: Tony Gioio