

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, September 6, 2023

Welcome and Open Forum:

Mary Ellen Will, Faith Formation Administrative Assistant, attended as a guest. Mary Ellen offered that she was attending to sit-in on the evangelization discussion.

There were no announcements by PPC members.

Opening Prayer and Faith Sharing:

Terry read the Gospel for Sunday, September 10, 2023 (Matthew 18:15-20). Several PPC members contributed to the faith sharing.

Recap of PPC Get Together on August 16:

Terry invited the PPC members who attended the off-site retreat at Jane Miller's home on August 16 to offer feedback – what worked, what did not work, and since the PPC meets only every other month whether the PPC should do this more often.

Following a brief discussion, it was concluded that it is important for the PPC to continue to find opportunities to build relationship and formation for PPC members should occur twice a year. Jane suggested the week between Christmas and New Years as the next opportunity; perhaps with a speaker.

Filling Open Position on PPC:

Since Margaret Patrick elected not to finish the final year of her term, there was a discussion on whether to fill the position by appointment now at the beginning of the PPC year or wait for the discernment process in May 2024. Acknowledging the importance of the discernment process, Fr. John concluded that waiting until May 2024 would be the best approach.

Report on “Bearing the Beams of Love”:

Fr. John led the discussion and gave a brief recap on feedback from the Archdiocese of Baltimore (AoB). The Archbishop does not want Bearing the Beams of Love to be published at this time in light of the challenges that confront us this fall. Deacon Christopher Yeung indicated that we could go ahead in creating a seminar specifically for the formation and Catechesis of our families with regard to the broader moral issues our parents and young people face. Beams will eventually be given to Dr. Diane Barr, Chancellor of the AoB, for further review before it will be made widely and openly available. Bearing the Beams of Love will be offered every Thursday evening 7:00 – 8:00pm from September 14, 2023 through June 20, 2024. Participants must register for the seminar to receive on-line access to the letters from the Pastor and supplemental material. One letter will be posted on-line each week. Participants who join the seminar after it begins will be expected to read all the material that has already been made available to the participants.

Fr. John invited the PPC and members of the focus group that reviewed all the letters to a meeting on Thursday, September 7, a week before the first session, to pray and think our way through the roll out.

Terry reminded the PPC that Fr. John asked each PPC member to review the “Bearing the Beams of Love” booklet that was sent to the AoB and provide any additional feedback directly to Fr. John.

As a result of feedback from the AoB, Fr. John rewrote letter 5 which was circulated to the PPC on August 30. The revised letter 5 was discussed.

Parish Pastoral Plan Status:

Terry sent the Parish Pastoral Plan (Plan) to the members of the PPC on September 5, 2023. He gave a brief overview of the development of the Plan and led the discussion. Terry asked for comments from the PPC. Fr. John said that it is good for the PPC to revisit the Plan and, if necessary, revise it; however, any changes will require a lot of prayer and a lot of thought. He asked the PPC members to review the Plan. Rachel reminded the PPC that whatever is decided about the Plan will affect the mission chairs and staff.

A discussion followed on communications between staff and ministries. Terry asked Tony Gioio to share his experience with how the Mission Council is working in this regard. Tony’s impressions were generally positive regarding the three major parish events – Block Party, Breakfast with St. Nick, and the St. Joseph Festival.

Mass Attendance and Financial Support of the Parish:

The questions of how to improve Mass attendance and how to get parishioners to better support the parish were raised. No actions were recommended. Fr. John reported that a capital campaign to finance the repairs on the north-side pillars in the church will roll out in late October or early November.

Report on Evangelization:

The discussion focused on the impact of the budget problems, not filling the Director of Evangelization position, and the departure of the lay Chair of Evangelization Commission. Mary Ellen Will participated in the discussion which included an update on the religious education program.

VIRTUS Training for all PPC Members:

Terry asked all PPC members to get VIRTUS trained.

Mission Council Report:

Tony shared that he is very encouraged by the diversity of people attending Mass and feels there are some very positive things going on in the parish.

Round Table:

Prior to asking the PPC members for any final announcements, Terry asked Fr. John, with respect to all the agenda items, where would he like the PPC to focus its efforts?

Fr. John stated that the PPC should really be familiar with the Parish Pastoral Plan. He asked the PPC members to carefully read through the Plan and each member come prepared with his/her specific comments. Fr. John also asked the PPC members to be concrete with their comments and suggestions.

During the Round Table, Tony reminded the PPC that the Block Party is coming up. Every ministry has been invited to participate and he has heard from very few. Rachel added that plenty of volunteers are needed for the day of the event. Terry indicated he would like every PPC member to volunteer. Terry will ask the PPC members individually what they would like to volunteer for at the Block Party.

Tony reminded everyone that the Block Party kicks-off a week of activities beginning with the Block Party on October 7, also the Rosary Congress begins October 7 and runs through October 14, and the week concludes with the Oktoberfest on October 14.

Terry announced that Pat Kilroy, who heads the WSJF radio station requested an opportunity to make a presentation to either the PPC or the Mission Council. It was decided that the PPC is the appropriate venue for such a presentation. Gwen recommended that Pat provide a "read ahead" for the PPC so the PPC members can be ready for any discussion which may follow the presentation. Terry will invite Pat to make the presentation at the November 8 PPC meeting.

There were no other announcements during the Round Table.

Closing Prayer:

Fr. John led the closing prayer.

Attendance:

PPC Members: Fr. John Worgul, Terry Morse, Rachel Wandishin, Minta Davis, Jane Miller, Kathy Reid, Joselle Ruddle, Mary Steinbrunner, Ernie Tucker

Corporators: Gwen Lilly, Chris Patrick

Mission Council: Tony Gioio

Guest/Staff: Mary Ellen Will