

# PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 26, 2019

**Present:** Fr. Eugene, Fr. Andrew, Anne Brosmer, Jane Gehlhausen, Van Ziegler, Ben Schwenk, Dan Fritch, Anna Hayden, Jerry Birge, Lynn Scheu, , Mike Hagerdon, Ann Rasche, Bridgette Bartley, Carmen Miranda,

**Absent:** Anna Hayden, Fr. Homero, Jacqueline Ripberger, Scott Brandt, Max Verkamp, Moises Basilio, Nicholas Hernandez, Tracie Ihle, Patty Brosmer, Pam Freyberger, Greg Fuhs,

**Guests:**

**Opening Prayer** was led by Fr. Eugene

The 7:00 pm meeting was called to order by Anne Brosmer.

Introductions were made.

Jerry made a motion to approve, and Bridgette seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Nov 5, 2019 meeting. The minutes were approved.

## **New Business**

- 1. Fr. Eugene shared the proposal of combining masses 9:00am and 11:00am to 9:30.** This was discussed with the Executive Committee as well. Reasons for this – 6pm and 6am are not just St. Joseph masses, there are people coming from other communities. Those help people that have jobs and other commitments or those traveling to be able to attend mass. 7:30am mass is very well attended. This leaves 9 and 11 am masses as possible to consolidate. Its difficult to cover 7 masses (counting Latino mass) each weekend. There are masses at 8, 8:30 and 10:30 at the other 2 Catholic churches in town. Ireland has 7am and 10am masses. The choirs are still determining how they will support the 9:30am mass weekly. Vote was taken, all in favor, no opposed.
- 2. Mass Counts** – will start doing counts on holy days, special masses ex: Christmas and weekend masses once a month.
- 3. Parish Mission** – Fr. Eugene shared there will be a mission Sunday – Tuesday, February 16-18. Father Robert Guerra is the mission priest and will also preach the weekend masses except the mass of confirmation. The topic is healing.
- 4. Census** – will be sent to all parishioners in early December. This can be filled out on line as well. This supports the work we are doing on revitalizing our parish. Our contact information (phone #s and email addresses) to reach our parishioners is quite old.

## **Old Business:**

### **1. Evangelization & Outreach** – *Mike reported*

- **Thanksgiving day feast** – ecumenical evangelization and works of mercy. Serving is 10:30-1:30. It's all about showing God's face to the community. Food prep started on Sunday. The meal is prepared at 4 different kitchens around town. Next year we may lose 10<sup>th</sup> St.. K of C is considering making their facility available to us.
- Received a tremendous response from people attending the funeral mass for an elderly person that passed away. She had a very small family. Several people attended to support the family.

## **COMMISSION REPORTS:**

### **FINANCE:** *Dan reported.*

- Small area of concern for CPC campaign. Last year there was a large contributor that has not yet contributed this year.
- There are 50 cemetery plots that have gravesites without names. There is a group of people helping to place plates on these sites.
- Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> the building committee would like to review and discuss the plans for renovation. This means the Feb mtg for parish council would be 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in March.

### **EDUCATION:** *Mike reported*

- Advent with St. Joseph – They had a nice video and talk on Sunday. Fr. Andrew said we are preparing for a person, not just a day. Share the book with others. The videos are on line at rejoice.com. There is a launch video and then there is a video to view each week on line
- The Net Ministries retreat for confirmation went very well. The committee is working on recommendation to share with Fr. Eugene

**SOCIAL CONCERNS:** *Lynn reported.*

- **Angel Tree:** 164 families have registered, 501 children. The rest of the information is in the notes.

**LITURGY:** *Fr. Eugene reported:*

- They are working on the vision statement. Decorating for Christmas Dec 22 will start after 11:00am mass. This is a good opportunity for the Anglo and Latino communities to work together.

**YOUTH:** *Anna reported:*

- Great attendance at youth nights. The house is full. They are asking the youth to submit questions that they use as topics for discussion. If you know of anyone that would like to help with Youth nights, let Anna and Jaquelin know. Anna and Jaquelin attended the Latino mass to reach out to the youth after. It was well received. Faith and Football outing went well and will try to do it again next year. 3 HS youth made TEC and it was “wonderful”. 10 HS youth attended NCYC at Indianapolis. Youth come together from all across the country to attend this conference. Bosco is looking for a Holy Family representative to be on their core team.

**INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY:** *Carmen reported*

- Preparing for Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration for both here and at Huntingburg. They have 20 people that have signed up for the Rosary. It is exciting. This year after mass they will have a dinner. Everyone is welcome to join them.

**HOLY TRINITY:** *Greg reported through Anne*

- All parishes attended the meeting about funding.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING:** *Scott reported through Anne*

- Planning committee sharing was done. 2 were well attended and 1 was not. Kyle Mehringer shared with them about a parish he attends in Terre Haute. The presentation that was done was very good.

**DEBRIEF OF PROCESS:** Van

- Well: good pace, consistent format of notes, a lot of information in notes, getting familiar with new format, it's helpful to get agenda earlier than Friday before, note agenda items for Parish Council when sending out committee notes.
- Better: conflicting actions, reduce side conversations, make sure you read the notes before the meeting,

**SUCCESS STORIES/OTHER BUSINESS**

- Net Ministries had a positive impact on a troubled youth. By the end of the retreat she was smiling and happy.
- Dan shared that the willingness of everyone holding discussions on future of 10<sup>th</sup> St. School is very positive.
- Dan Shared the group working on the church renovation committee are really doing a great job at looking at this renovation lasting for the next 50 -60 years.

**Closing Prayer:**

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm** in room 303.

**Submitted by:** Lynn Scheu

## Finance Commission Report

*Distributed by Dan Fritch*

### St Joseph Church Restoration Committee Update

The committee met on October 10<sup>th</sup> – several items were discussed

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Schematic Design will be the current focus
- Communications
- Determine if an outside fund raising consultant will be used
- Funding requirements
- General Contractor Selection – RFP being put together
- Parishioners meetings
- Additional meetings with Parish Council and Finance Committee

13 of the urgent needs identified in Phase 1 have been awarded and are being worked

Estimated costs \$150,000

### Financial Report

Weekly collections are down an average of \$219 per week thru the first 13 weeks

No major concerns at this time

#### Account Balances:

Total Cash/Investments	\$2,564,587
Endowments (Restricted)	\$2,002,335 (no change)
Endowments (Unrestricted)	\$ 188,931 (no change)
Dubois County Community Foundation Endowments (Restricted)	\$ 788,780

The Dubois County Foundation 2019 Grants are \$15,981

No concerns with the current Parish Financial Budget

Catholic Parishes Campaign letters we sent out last week

2019 Assessment \$325,724

CPC Commitment Weekend - Father Andrew spoke at the Oct 5/6 Masses

He did a great job! – We pray for a successful campaign

### Holy Trinity

We are still waiting on meeting to discuss next year's funding commitment.

We want to look at a small group to discuss Holy Trinity funding and setting family expectations – Father Eugene has asked Jason Kelly to lead this group

## **Social Concerns Commission Report**

*Distributed by Lynn Scheu*

**New Business:** Social Concerns to cover one of the coffee and conversation weekends in February.

**Parish Council Update:** Discussion held on 10<sup>th</sup> St School building and grounds future use by school.

**Sick and Elderly:** Distributed over 150 Thinking of You cards at 3 nursing homes.

**Bingo:** We had bingo at Good Samaritan in October. Had several participants.

**Bibs & Cards for Baptism:** Call for volunteers & send bibs out for embroidery work.

**New Parishioners:** Do not have new list – ask Jane for it.

**Angel Tree:** 27 gifts returned, trees are going down in # of angels left on the tree. 145 families have turned in their forms. Last year at the end we had 172 families. Dec 14 is distribution day. Rose, Sue and Barb will help with the sign in process.

**Senior Citizen's dinner:** no work at this time.

**Donation Requests:** Baby box discussion is still in process. They are looking at doing it in Ferdinand fire station because it is manned 24 x 7. Still looking forward to our donation of \$500.

**Respect Life:** 40 Days for Life completed well. Banquet and mass had very low attendance unfortunately. Next meeting is next Tuesday – we will start looking at January anniversary of Roe V Wade. We need to plan the date to go to Louisville to pray.

## **Education Commission Report**

*Distributed by Tracie Ihle*

Net Ministries is coming for a confirmation retreat Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

Father Andrew is offering his 11th & 12th Grade students the opportunity to attend Reboot with Chris Stefanick in Bloomington on Wednesday, November 13.

9th & 10th Grade have completed the first half of Alpha for Youth. The youth have been engaged and responding well.

November 24<sup>th</sup> – Catechists will be serving the Coffee and Conversation and the R.E. office will have a display table set up with each of the following:

- Advent Candles for purchase (tapers and votives) \$5 for a set.
- Advent activity for children to pick up.
- For any adults or teens in the parish “Advent Meditations with Joseph” - \$5 for purchase

Join us for our Advent Mission Night with Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Joseph. 7:30PM with refreshments following the 6PM Mass. Please join us for our Parish Mission Night as we begin our journey through Advent together. The Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Joseph program includes an inspirational journal, weekly prayer videos, and Parish Mission Video to kick off our Advent journey as a parish. During this event, we will join author and presenter Fr. Mark Toups in an engaging conversation with his friends Sr. Miriam Heidland and Fr. Josh Johnson. This program will enrich your entire Advent journey by providing you with daily inspiration throughout this blessed season. Contact Fr. Andrew for questions.

A Christmas program with parish children, released time families, and the youth choir will take place on Sunday, December 15 between the 9AM & 11AM Masses at church. This is optional and there are several practices. (Schedule is attached to the registration form available in the back of church.)

Penance and Pizza with the area parishes will take place on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

- The Nashville mini-retreat Rock Solid Faith and tour of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecelia Motherhouse took place on Thursday, October 24 with middle school youth from the area. Jimmy Mitchell led the retreat at Assumption of Nashville Parish. St. Joseph took a full charter bus of middle school youth from the area. It was a huge success. Many are asking to go back next year. St. Isidore and St. Mary’s Huntingburg joined us on the retreat, along with a majority of St. Joseph youth with some youth from neighboring parishes. Bosco joined us and helped to promote.

## Strategic Planning Report

*Distributed by Scott Brandt*

The Strategic Planning Team met had a busy month in October. On October 1 a number of members visited the parishes of St. John Newburgh and St. Benedict in Evansville. On Thursday Oct 17 we visited Holy Trinity Catholic Parish and The Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville. The visits allowed us to see how other parishes in our area are handling many of the same challenges we are seeing at St. Joseph. Included with these notes is a summary of questions that were asked and each parish's response.

On Saturday October 26, we held another planning session. In addition to summarizing the parish visits, we continued to fine tune the goals that resulted out of all the data gathering that has taken place over the last 18 months. Those goals were communicated to the parish in the bulletin a few week ago. Since our goals must align with our mission statement, we then took a look at our current mission statement. The consensus was the that the statement is not truly who we are today. It was decided that we needed to take a deeper look into who we are and how the mission statement could be changed to better reflect the culture at St. Joseph. Our next step was to create a Vision Statement that would help drive decisions that need to be made by the STP and the parish. The team broke up into 3 groups and were tasked with coming up with a Vision Statement. All were discussed and a small core group was asked to review all the information and make recommendations on changes to our Mission Statement as well as finalizing the new Vision Statement.

The small core group met on Thursday, Oct 31 to attempt to make the necessary changes to the mission statement. After a very good and lengthy conversation, it was decided to table any changes to the mission statement. We still believe that it needs to be changed, but also believe that the mission statement that we come up with today may not truly reflect who will be as the strategic plan is executed. Conversations will continue on this subject as we move forward.

After reviewing the Vision Statements that were presented in the previous meeting, we were able to come to a consensus.

*“Saint Joseph Parish is a community that invites all people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by being a place of welcome, discipleship and prayer.”*

We also worked through the goals and came to a consensus

1. Build a strong and welcoming Parish community for all people
2. Create an environment that draws future generations (Youth, Young Adults, and Young Families) to St. Joseph Parish enabling them to grow in the Catholic Faith
3. Achieve a culture of evangelization so that all can encounter Jesus Christ and his love.
4. Achieve long term financial sustainability for the Parish in light of our aging demographics and increased support of Holy Trinity

We are planning two parish update session where all are welcome to see an update on the progress of the strategic planning process. Those two dates are Wednesday, Nov 20, at 12:30 and on Sunday, Nov 24, after the 9:00 AM mass. The presentation portion of the update will only be about 15 – 30 minutes, but we will leave time for questions and comments.

Our next meeting is Dec 3.

## Youth Commission Report

*Distributed by Jacqueline Ripberger*

### Report:

- Youth Nights
  - Continued strong attendance rates; 25-30 middle school age and 35-40 high school age each week, countless snacks consumed!
  - The issue of space to accommodate these large numbers is an ongoing discussion among the Bosco team. The current decision is to continue cultivating the youth we encounter for the rest of the school year before making any changes to the space.
  - Changed the style of some youth nights to involve more community building activities and the youth have responded well. Most recently, we held a group dance competition, used the Lion King to teach about God's mercy, and hosted Kim Kendall to share her witness of faith.
- Middle School Mornings
  - Attendance holding steady at 25 students at both JMS and HTCS.
- Holy Trinity Religion Classes (Sr. Becky)
  - Bosco intern assisting with classroom material, her creativity and insight are a great asset!
  - Jacqueline and Anna visit 6 classes once a month, 2 for each grades 6th-8th
- Annual Appeal fundraiser
  - Mailings are being assembled, to be sent out first week of November
  - Youth and Bosco team will be speaking at masses

### From the Bosco Team:

- *We are specifically looking for a Holy Family representative to be part of our CORE team. This adult team consists of 2 representatives from each parish. These members ensure Bosco is represented in their parish by attending quarterly meetings with the Director to share ideas. In the summer, this group also hosts several evening studies for parents.*
- *We appreciate your continued support and involvement with our ministry. **We are always looking for more adults and mentors** to be with the youth and help behind the scenes. If you or someone you know feels called to help Bosco, reach out and we can find something that is a good fit for you!*

### Upcoming:

*\*\*See our website for a full list of events*

Oct 25 Bosco Bonfire @ St. Mary Ireland

Nov 1 Annual Appeal letter sent out

Nov 9-11 Teens Encounter Christ hosted at St. Mary Ireland

Nov 17 Faith & Football @ Lucas Oil Stadium

Nov 21-23 NCYC 2019

Dec 15 Christmas Caroling