

PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 5, 2019

Present: Fr. Eugene, Fr. Andrew, Scott Brandt, Anne Brosmer, Jane Gehlhausen, Van Ziegler, Ben Schwenk, Dan Fritch, Max Verkamp, Jerry Birge, Lynn Scheu, Moises Basilio, Nicholas Hernandez, Tracie Ihle, Mike Hagerdon, Patty Brosmer, Ann Rasche, Bridgette Bartley, Pam Freyberger, Greg Fuhs, Tom Betz, Jason Kelly

Absent: Carmen Miranda, Anna Hayden, Fr. Homero, Jacqueline Ripberger

Guests: Matt Potter

Opening Prayer was led by Fr. Andrew

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

Introductions were made.

Wished Fr. Eugene a Happy Birthday and presented him a birthday cake.

Bridgette made a motion to approve, and Lynn seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2019 meeting. The minutes were approved.

New Business

1. Diocese Stewardship Presentation – *Matt Potter reported*

- Shared some suggested reading material/books on stewardship
- Shared that messaging of stewardship needs to be more than just financial
- To address future financial sustainability, we need to focus on evangelization to bring more people into the Church and to talk about estate planning with a focus on parishioners over 60
- Discussed different aspects of capital campaigns
 - Qualities we should look for in people working on the campaign
 - Some ways to approach people for a contribution
 - Giving is relational
 - Matching advocate/askers with prospective donors
 - Consider a campaign consulting firm

Old Business:

1. Evangelization & Outreach – *Mike reported*

- Nothing to report

2. October Mass counts – *Jane reported*

- Shared October Mass Counts for 2018 and 2019.
 - 2019 Mass Counts were down from 2018.
- Will be looking to have future Mass counts done monthly, all Holy days, and Ash Wednesday

COMMISSION REPORTS:

FINANCE: *Dan reported.*

- Reported that additional conversations are being held by the Finance Commission, the School District, and the City regarding the 10th Street School building/property.
- Renovation project Phase I to address the urgent maintenance needs is continuing to move forward.
- Discussions are being held on the approach to the 2020 Capital Campaign.
- CPC is slightly ahead of last year's pace on contributions.

EDUCATION: *Tracie reported*

- November 24th – 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

- Will be holding our Advent Mission Night with Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Joseph on November 24th at 7:30 pm with refreshments following the 6PM Mass.
- A Christmas program with parish children, release time families, and the youth choir will take place on Sunday, December 15 between the 9 am & 11 am Masses at church.

SOCIAL CONCERNS: *Lynn reported.*

- **Angel Tree:** 27 gifts returned. Angels are being taken at a very good pace. 145 families have turned in their forms. Last year at the end, we had 172 families. Dec 14 is distribution day.
- 150 Thinking of You cards went out to residents at local nursing homes

LITURGY: *Fr. Eugene reported:*

- No meeting held.

YOUTH:

- No report.

INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY: *Moises reported*

- St. Joseph Latino Festival was very successful.
- Citizenship classes are being held in Huntingburg.
- Began preparations for the celebration of the Lady of Guadalupe.

HOLY TRINITY: *Greg reported*

- Developing a new fundraiser called the Bash. It will be an evening of entertainment on January 25 at the Calumet.
- Starting funding discussions for year 6 on November 14 with the local parishes.
- Discussing ways to better engage with Holy Trinity families.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: *Scott reported*

- Shared the development of the new Vision statement for the parish and the four goals of the strategic planning process.
- Two parish updates are being scheduled for later in November.

DEBRIEF OF PROCESS

- Reviewed what went well with the meeting
- Reviewed what could have gone better

SUCCESS STORIES/OTHER BUSINESS

- Holy Trinity All School Mass went very well and was well attended.
- Nashville trip, a mini retreat, with middle school youth (about 50 kids) over fall break went well.
- Hearing more singing from the congregation.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Eugene led us in closing prayer.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 7:00 pm** in room 303.

Submitted by: Max Verkamp

Finance Commission Report

Distributed by Dan Fritch

St Joseph Church Restoration Committee Update

The committee met on October 10th – 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	\$ 788,780
Endowments (Restricted)	

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 10th 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 10th

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 24th – 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 11th.

- 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