

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
September 20th, 2022
7:15 PM – Parish Office Conference Room

Council Members in Attendance: Dennis Hively, Eric Watkins, Sue Johnson, Mark Sanda, Rob Fafinski, Ken Forner, Kayla Pascoe, Bill and Jean Van Hecke. **Pastor:** Father Tony VanderLoop. **Guests** Oscar Esparza, Diana Villanueva, Dayanara Esparza, Laurie Forner, Brittany Kaufmann

Mission Statement:

Guardian Angels exists to reach out from the Altar of Christ to educate, serve, and evangelize.

As Catholics, we come together around the Altar of Christ to be nourished and fed by both Word and Sacrament. However, we cannot stay here, we cannot limit ourselves to receiving, for we are called to go back into the world and make a difference. We accomplish this by educating, serving and evangelizing, confident that God's spirit of generosity will permeate our hearts and minds to make a difference in the world!

1. Opening Prayer - 7:15 - Ken Forner
2. General Housekeeping
 - A. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were moved for approval by Eric Watkins and seconded by Dennis Hively. The minutes were approved unanimously

- B. Opening Prayer for October

Bill Van Hecke volunteered for the opening prayer in October.

3. Open Forum – Questions/comments From Parishioners

Parishioners have expressed concerned with the ambivalence to changes from a large portion of the parish. Town hall meetings have increased input and concern. The information provided was good, the meetings were well attended and encouraged participation in the process.

The feasibility study has not been reported. Two schools have toured the facilities, but neither has followed up.

4. New Business
 - A. Evangelization

Oscar Esparza, Diana Villanueva, and their daughter Dayanara Esparza, shared their experience with the archdiocesan evangelization training in preparation for the anglophone church participating in a similar program. The family spent two summers at St. Stephan's learning about evangelization in the Catholic Church with other Latino communities. Every Saturday classes taught a community based model of evangelization. Oscar expressed that he learned more about the Catholic faith and experienced a renewed faith because Fr. Jose Williams was able to teach clearly about the Bible and the faith. He has since continued to be in a bible study and he is able

to teach others about their faith and to learn more deeply about God. Diana explained that program works by inviting individual in home hosts for small group teaching sessions about the Catholic Faith. The program asked individuals to open their home for teaching and the host would invite any number of others to also attend. Sessions included a host, a preacher who presented and reflected upon a gospel scripture, and a testimony and then guests have the opportunity share their own stories. Guests would often tell their stories, express their brokenness, and walk away from the sessions with renewed hope. At the end of the sessions flyers were distributed and individuals in need of sacraments were identified. Representatives of the parish then followed up to help bring them back into the Church and prepared the interested participants for sacraments. Twelve people from the anglophone community will be trained in a similar program at the beginning of next year.

B. Receiving from the Chalice

Some parishioners have expressed an interest in receiving from the chalice at Mass again. The archdiocese has indicated that there are no additional risks over and beyond the general issues of disease transmission through a common chalice. It is nice to have the presence of the body, blood, soul, and divinity but there needs to be thoughtfulness involved in the regular availability of the common chalice at Mass. We currently do not have enough Eucharistic ministers to have the common chalice at Mass. Recruitment may occur through an in Mass announcement for a training. Currently five Eucharistic ministers are at each Mass. If the chalice was brought back, one additional Eucharistic minister would be required at each Mass and the choir would have to receive communion after the rest of the parish.

C. Charitable Work & Adoration on Sundays

On Thursday October 20, the entire parish will have an opportunity to participate in Feed My Starving Children.

Fr. VanderLoop indicated that he would like to begin offering adoration on Sundays from 3:30-4:30. Support was indicated for Adoration if a properly reverential atmosphere was maintained. Concern for the increased burden on Father's time was expressed and the option of a less frequent or a more week to week schedule was expressed.

5. Updates

A. Archdiocese Communication App

Laurie Forner and Brittany Kaufmann presented the options for the Archdiocesan communication app. The My Parish App was used at the Archdiocesan Synod. Right now we have announcements, bulletin, website, and Flock Note. Flock Note allows for emails, texts, sign ups, polls and surveys, and bulletin distribution and is currently \$50 a month. Currently about 350 people are signed up for flock note. The cost of the bulletin is offset by the advertising. The website is currently mobile compatible. The current website designer does not do apps. Members of the parish are currently able to sign up for Flock Note on the website.

A mobile app would be faster and simpler and would allow for push notifications and downloads for offline use. Apps can be placed on home screens for increased reminders. Apps, however, are an additional cost. The archdiocese uses the My Parish App, which has the highest rating of all Catholic apps. The My Parish app includes daily readings, news, a giving link, announcements, confession reminders, mass times, bulletins, homilies, inspiration. Laurie Forner expressed personal satisfaction with the feature that allowed you to add an event to your personal calendar with one click. Nicole Mamura (sp?), the technology contact for the archdiocese indicated that it is used by about 10 parishes in the archdiocese. She found that the app was much more successful at getting parishioners more involved in Church events and sacraments than other methods tried.

Laurie Forner suggested pushing the use of Flock Note to get parishioners accustomed to the use of modern communications by the church, publishing a simple clear bulletin, and collaborating with the deanery or another parish to offset the cost and staffing required for an app. Concern was expressed regarding the integration of the information from the website with the app without an increase in staffing requirements and the accessibility for older individuals within the parish. Furthermore, texting may continue to be more appropriate in certain situations. App permissions may be concerning to some individuals. More research into the staffing requirement and ability to include advertising was requested.

B. Parish Festival

The parish festival is this weekend. There are a large number of volunteer openings still. In the past a robocall has been used to insure that tent set up is fully staffed. Flock note may be used this year. Ken Forner will provide a text and Father VanderLoop will look into the best method for disseminating it to parishioners this year.

Currently there is not any outreach or evangelization portion of the festival. Ken Forner has suggested that beer and wine proceeds go to bountiful basket. General support for 50% of proceeds was expressed.

C. Janitorial Assistance

Nothing new to report. Happy feet soccer has a real chance to generate some growth and help to subsidize the cost of church janitorial assistance. As of now, parishioners Doug and Vi are cleaning up the bathrooms and setting up for funerals. The seems to have addressed primary issues expressed by parishioners.

D. Coffee and Doughnuts - December 4

The Parish Pastoral Council will be responsible for coffee and doughnuts after Sunday Masses on December 4. More information will follow at the October meeting.

5. Closing Prayer

9:20

Next Scheduled Parish Pastoral Council meeting is October 18th at 7:00pm