

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2015

6:30pm

Notre Dame Parish Center

Members Present: Fr. Joe Giroux, Fr. Scott Belina, Jennifer Champagne, Madonna Champagne, Judy Pelkey, Deacon Bryan Bashaw, Molly McKee, Pam Leduc, Neil Seymour, Linda Sprague, Jim Coughlin, Mary Hart, Andy Duso, Darlene Livernois

Members Excused: Ruth Demarse

Opening Prayer: Prayer for the Faithful Departed was led by Fr. Joe.

Review/Approval of Minutes: The meeting minutes of September 21st was reviewed. A motion was carried to accept meeting minutes by Neil Seymour, seconded by Linda Sprague, and all in favor.

Old Business:

a. Parish census: The census cards that were handed out before and after Masses on the weekend of October 17/18 and October 24/25 went well. There were cards filled out those weekends and some people took them home and returned them. A volunteer was asked to alphabetize all the census cards that we have received throughout the entire process. A comparison will be done with the Parish Data System and then a mailing will go out to the ones that were missed. There were some suggestions to put out some of the census cards in all the churches.

b. Emmaus Soup Kitchen: Since last meeting the soup kitchen is no longer using St. John Bosco Parish Center. The only contact that had been made by them after sending out the official letters, was from one of the board members who thanked St. André's for sponsoring them.

c. Frassati House: There was a great turnout for the Open House that was done on November 1st. We were happy to have Bishop LaValley come bless the house on that day. There was probably about 40 or more there at the time of the blessing. There was a write up in the North Country Catholic and the Malone Telegram. Fr. Joe has been meeting with the Frassati House missionaries regularly and work area assignments have been made up for everyone so will start to see things progressing from here.

d. Malone Adult Center Property: On October 26th the Morton Street property was purchased and legally settled. As for the process of tearing down the building, we can legally remove the asbestos and bring to the landfill but don't feel that this is a good option. So there have been bids coming in for the removal of asbestos and the demolition of the building, but has found out that this is not a cheap process to have done and will cost more than expected to bring the building down. The maintenance staff has been gutting and salvaging what they can and surprisingly they have salvaged quite a few things that can possibly be sold, which will help out with some of the demolition cost. One of the other things that the maintenance staff will also be doing is taking off the cinderblock part of the building, as it is considered separate from the main part of the building. By them doing this, it will save some money with the removal of the remainder of the building.

e. Holy Year of Mercy - 40 Hours: Everything is set for the 40-Hour devotion. The only update is still haven't been able to find a guest speaker.

f. Oratories in Owls Head and Lake Titus: There wasn't much heard from anyone after the information was put in the bulletin regarding selling the properties, but what has been heard has all been supportive. Prior to selling, Fr. Joe will need to contact the neighboring pastors to make sure it will not affect the surround areas, which then will go to the Diocese for approval to sell. The religious articles will be taken out of each of the churches prior to selling.

g. "Culture of Vocations" Committee: After not receiving any names from the council, Fr. Joe appointed Rachel Daly and Paul Poulin to go to the committee meeting. He will be meeting with both of them to get their thoughts and opinions about the presentation.

h. Establishing a "Grief Support Group": Molly reported that they will be getting something together by the beginning of the year. Spoke about getting a list from the staff of the recently deceased and the contact person for them. They will be putting something in the bulletin about the group, and will make sure it will be mentioned that it isn't just for parishioners but relatives of parishioners.

i. Establishing a "Hospitality Committee": Nothing new to report. Fr. Joe will be following up with Bob Main to see how things are progressing with the committee and see if he is still interested in being the coordinator. It was mentioned that maybe this committee could work on getting more greeters and ushers in the churches, and also trying to get more teenagers involved.

j. Establishing a "Buildings and Grounds Committee": Nothing new to report. There was discussions regarding the concerns of the winter parking at St. John Bosco and Notre Dame this year. There was a suggestion that a reminder be put in the bulletin about people being more conscientious about their parking this winter when attending church.

k. Vocation Summit: Nothing new to report.

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New Business:

a. Annual Reports: The annual reports were placed in as a bulletin insert. As of yet, haven't heard any comments or concerns about the report. There was appreciation of the time span comparisons that were done in the report. There was a discussions in the comparison of the financial and spiritual statistics which regards to baptisms, marriages, utilities and envelopes.

b. Notre Dame - Year of Mercy: The Diocese has designated Notre Dame Church in Malone as one of the sights for the diocesan pilgrimage for the Year of Mercy. There was an article in the North Country Catholic about it. It should be sometime in December, but as of yet there isn't much information.

c. Community Thanksgiving Dinner: The Thanksgiving coordinating committee approached Fr. Joe regarding finding some committee replacements as they are all ready to retire. Fr. Joe did put something in the bulletin to try and get some volunteers but has not received any responses. Will continue to try and find some volunteers.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 11th at 6:30pm at the Notre Dame Parish Center.

Closing Prayer: Glory Be was led by Fr. Joe.

Respectfully Submitted
Darlene Livernois