

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2017 6:30p.m.
Notre Dame Parish Center

Members Present: Fr. Joe Giroux, Fr. Scott Belina, Deacon Bryan Bashaw, Malcolm Miner, Mary Haas, Gregory Paye, Jennifer Champagne, Madonna Champagne, Aimee Leroy, Judy Pelkey, Jeffrey Scharf, Pam Leduc, Andrew Duso

Members Excused: Cathy Lane-Johnson, Linda Sprague

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mary Kay Tullock, Nick Haas, Jean Martin, Linda Bigness, Catherine Suprenant

1. Opening Prayer: Opening prayer was led by Father Joe.

2. Review /Approval of minutes: The minutes of the November 28th meeting were reviewed. A motion was carried to accept the minutes by Greg Paye, seconded by Pam Leduc. All were in favor to approve the minutes.

3. Old Business:

a. Oratories in Owls Head, Lake Titus, West St. Gravel pit

- Appraisals were received from Jack Fleury and Ed Legacy on these properties.
- Owls Head property (St. Joseph's Church) - range \$43,000 - \$45,000
- Lake Titus property (St. Mary's Church)- range \$11,000-\$13,000
- West Street Gravel pit- \$11,000
- Andrew will move forward with the process to sell the properties. The sales have to be approved by the courts due to the fact they are owned by a church. Also, Bishop LaValley has to agree to the new use of the building(s).

b. Plowing of cemeteries

- The cemeteries have remained accessible thus far this winter due to the mild winter. However, no further burials will take place this winter. The Council continues to support NOT plowing the cemeteries due to lack of manpower and equipment, and liability issues.
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c. Frassati House

- Father Joe will begin working with Catherine Suprenant within the next several weeks to begin recruiting new individuals for the Frassati House. These missionaries would commence their duties in July.
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d. St. Helen's

- There are concerns with the stained glass window frames being rotten in the Church in

Chasm Falls. Repairs to these windows will take place in the Spring.

4. New Business:

a. Hearts of Fire (First Fridays)

- This event has been well received and attracting people not only from our parish but from parishes outside the area. Individuals of all ages have been coming together to worship. Everyone agreed to continue with this successful event. Andrew Duso will contact the North Country Catholic to publicize this activity.

b. “Andre's Brothers”/Women's groups

- The men's group, Andre's Brothers, continues to evolve. They are coming together to participate in a Discovery faith-sharing program. There also was a request made by the group to pray Vespers with the priests on Tuesdays.
- A women's faith sharing group was formed from “The Doors of Mercy” Lenten program which met last year. Due to an increased interest, there will be another women's faith sharing group commencing soon.
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c. Vespers (Tuesdays)

- An invitation has been extended to *anyone* (male or female) that is interested in praying the Vespers to join in on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. at Notre Dame.

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d. Mardi Gras Pot Luck(Sunday, February 12): Christian Formation + HFS

- A Pot Luck supper will be sponsored for the religious education and Holy Family School families. The event will take place at Holy Family School on Sunday, February 12th. The event is open to anyone.

f. Pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Oratory

- The parish's last pilgrimage was 2 1/2 years ago. There has been much interest expressed in another journey to the shrine. The trip may be helpful to unite people in our parish in light of the pastoral plan. A committee will be formed to begin the planning. June 4th or June 11th have been selected as possible dates.

g. Youth Ministry

- Catherine Suprenant, the Director of Christian Formation, is not getting a wide variety of students attending the activities she plans. Many are so involved in extracurricular activities there is little time left to participate in other activities. Catherine would like to explore the possibility of release time classes for high school students in the morning once a week. She will contact the Diocese to see what our role could be before contacting the Superintendent of Schools and Franklin Academy administration.

h. Civic Holiday Mass

- Input was solicited as to whether the mass for a civic holiday should be 8:00 or 9:00.

- The consensus seemed to be an 8:00 Mass would be better.
- The Lenten Mass schedule will remain as is.

Proposed Pastoral Plan:

Mary Kay Tullock addressed the Pastoral Council with a letter expressing her thoughts and concerns on the Pastoral Plan. Mary Kay was thanked for her input.

a. Review of recent Mass attendance figures (including Christmas)

- Recent Mass attendance numbers were reviewed. It was discussed IF one of the churches was to close, there would be a need to add another mass at Christmas.

b. Review of parishioner input

- Input was reviewed and discussed. Correspondence was received from approximately 15 individuals about the proposed changes. The total number of parishioners is over 4,000. There was a sentiment with some council members there are more parishioners who are concerned about the proposals but who have not stepped forward.

c. Next steps

- There still seems to remain a very strong allegiance to individual buildings which is impeding the building of one Catholic community- St. Andre's. There is a need to foster a sense of belonging, no matter what Church one attends.
- As a parish we cannot continue to keep all the buildings going with the funding we have right now. Money has had to be drawn out of the savings account to cover daily operations of the parish.
- Proposals were made to:
 - Seek estimates for renovations needed at Notre Dame
 - Conduct a feasibility study to examine the marketability of each of the church buildings
 - Complete a handicap accessibility study on Notre Dame and St. Joseph's.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 20th at 6:30 Notre Dame Parish Center

Closing Prayer: Closing prayer was led by Father Joe.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Haas (acting secretary)