

# Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2018

7:30 pm

Parish Library C 103

	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
1.	<b>Prayer</b>	Bob Lemieux
2.	<b>Formation</b>	Karen Asta
3.	<b>Review of Minutes</b>	
4.	<b>School Update</b>	Jen Fiorenza (4 <sup>th</sup> Grade teacher) for Darcie Girmus
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Clubs</li><li>• Book Fair<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Thru Tuesday</li><li>○ Successful fund raiser</li></ul></li><li>• Alumni appeal next week, using the Trifold mailer</li><li>• First year using the trimester system, so the first grading period just ended;</li><li>• The five year DFE self study is underway</li><li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual joint St Mark-O'Connell choir concert</li></ul>	
5.	<b>PTPO Update</b>	Cathy Abi-Khattar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lion Spirit shirt is on sale; it is parish capable as it does not say "school"</li><li>• Primary focus is on the basketball season</li><li>• Bonus rebate due to high amount of sales; it will be used for a new printer</li><li>• Trimester is a big hit</li><li>• Parish/School Staff/Parent cookie event</li><li>• Trunk or Treat: smooth; 300 kids, with older kids going to dance</li></ul>	
6.	<b>Finance</b>	Karen Asta

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- Next meeting is next Tuesday;

## 7. Commission Reports: (Major Highlights)

- **Community Service** George McAndrews
  - Giving tree is starting
  - Special adoptions; targeting families for the holidays
  - Social Action Linking Together (SALT): November 10 and general assembly session materials
- **Religious Education** Walter Gawlak
  - Adult Faith: moving on
  - Baptism/RCIA: going well
  - Sunday Morning Program review of two parts; reference of Pope Francis and his strategies to being holy
  - Question and Answer sheet about confirmation retreat
    - Lots of talk
    - Not contacting Kevin or Ana-Alisa
    - Wants to get a dialog about the situation
    - Heard rumors but no one is coming forward to express concerns
    - Parents don't want kids going overnight...
- **Community Growth** Betsy Zolper
  - Care for a common home: Went to Care for Creation Network
    - 25 attending
    - 11 other parishes
    - Bishop Burbage and Bishop Knestout (Arlington and Richmond) planning on signing the Paris Accords
  - Peace and Justice: meals for children (after Pittsburgh shooting)
  - November 14 Unaccompanied Youth meeting dealing with the homeless children in Fairfax county
- **Worship** Bob Lemieux

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- EM sanitizing hands: people want to see something to wash hands. Large amount of time for all EM will interrupt schedule. Will remind Ems to sanitize hands AFTER sign of peace (antiseptics to be provided in sacristy)
- Some may carry for emergency fill ins
- Some have allergies to some cleaning products
- Being prepared to establish liturgical events for sexual abuse scandal if brought out: not done

- **Youth**

Jim Barrett

## 8. **Old Business:**

- Brainstorm on Sex abuse scandal
  - Some frustration due to separation of some issues into categories
  - Many action plans on board
  - Several volunteers for working groups for solutions seeking
  - Some concerns overtaken by national/diocesan news releases and actions
- Pastoral Council Elections
  - November 17/18
  - Manning the booth form is online
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Retreat
  - See Religious Education.

## 9. **New Business**

- None

## 10. **Eyes and Ears**

Council

- 9:30 Program: well attended, many attendees were not parents of children in RE but separates.
- Youth on the pastoral council? Will get a different viewpoint. High School age as a possibility? Should not be a separate seat, but they could run as normal candidate

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- Shorter masses, shorter RE (30 minutes – no singing...)
- Online RE e-learning.
- Why is it that the other parents are not in the building (RE students). It used to be teach or be in the Sunday program, but this is no longer done.
- Sunday brunch:
  - Is it possible to do it more often? Low pre-order tickets, but many short order appearances.
  - Use of real silverware – dishwasher is operational!
- Trunk or Treat: Fabulous!
- Newcomers luncheon: 6 families. All with young children. Lots of things, including the films, trunk or treat, scouts, etc.
- Father Tuck (Spiritual advisor to evangelization committee) Book Club Divine Renovation. Read one chapter and discuss over six-week period. Possibility of doing it as a dial-in. When do we start?

## **11. Pastoral Issues / Status / Updates**

Father Pat

- Get more people to run for election
- Bishop: Special needs morning. Very impressed with the way things are working. Typical 1145 mass size.
- Thanksgiving clothing drive: need volunteers! Personal shoppers for assistance. Bring clothes on TUESDAY
- 1<sup>st</sup> Penance on December 15
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of advent is the major penance service
- Christmas schedule will have three masses at five pm, plus other masses at eight pm, 10 pm, and on Christmas
- Immaculate Conception December 8 will be on Saturday, still a Holy Day of Obligation
- Next meeting at 730. Social meeting, (NO NOTES!) Bring finger foods and holiday type fun.

## **12. Closing Prayer**

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**Meeting Ends at 8:48 pm**

**Next Meeting: December 6, 2018**

## **Community Service Report**

## **Religious Education Report**

## **Community Growth Report**

**Always Our Children:** The Always Our Children Ministry continues to meet the second Monday of every other month. The next meeting is Monday Nov.12. A couple of the founding members of the group went to the Memorial Service for Matthew Shepard held on Oct.26 at the Washington National Cathedral. It was a very beautiful and moving service, remembering the life and death of Matthew Shepard, who was murdered for being gay in 1998. This Christian community beautifully welcomed his remains to be laid to rest in the crypt of the Cathedral. Our next meeting will be in January and we will sponsor Donut Sunday on Feb.11.

**Bakers for Funerals:** Our ministry baked for two funerals in October. They have about 90 volunteer bakers. There are three co-chairs: Mary Lou McIntire, Karen Jiron and Susie Callahan

**Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CCH) – 1)** Compost education begins at *ST MARK* School this week. CCH raised funds from the “Tour of the Milky Way” talk for composter. **2) Care for Creation Network Catholic Diocese of Arlington (CCNCDA)** quarterly meeting: Bishop Burbidge is planning to join 800 US Catholic Institutions and sign the “Catholics are Still In” pledge asserting support for Paris Climate accord and calling for action on climate change. Our Lady Queen of Peace has secured approval for solar panels which will meet 47% of their energy needs. **3)** Disposal tour of parish offices and school this week to facilitate recycling and determine if appropriate bins are available.

**Christians in Commerce:** No November update. The NoVA Men’s Chapter of CIC continues to meet every Wednesday in the Choir Room at 0645 (Fellowship & Vittles) followed Prayer, Praise Teaching & Sharing from 7-8 am.

**Cursillo:** No November update. Meets every Tuesday 12:30-1:30 in Jean Lupinacci’s office for those who have already made a weekend. <http://www.arlingtoncursillo.org>

**Evangelization Committee:** No November update

**Funeral Receptions:** Funeral Receptions committee has helped serve at 1 reception since the last meeting. No other changes and we’re always open to new members as many hands make light work!

**Knights of Columbus (Santa Maria Council):** The Council served dinner to 68 guests at the Christ House on September 26<sup>th</sup>. The Knights also assisted the SMAC team at the *ST MARK* Fall Festival by running the beer concession and helping to cook brats. The Council made 4 deliveries of food from the St. Mark Fall Food Drive in September. A total of 2193 lbs. of food was delivered to the St. Lucy warehouse in Manassas—less than in past years owing to a decline in Mass attendance. Year to date, we have delivered 2879 lbs. of food

**Giving Thanks 5K Run-** held Thanksgiving morning, honors veterans who have given their lives for our country. The race is organized by a retired Navy Veteran and we assist.

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**Le Cercle Francais:** No November update. Continues to meet every Tuesday from 10 am -12 and converse en Francais.

**Movie Night:** On **Friday, November 9th**, put on your PJ's, bring your sleeping bags and pillows, and join us at 6:30pm for ice cream sundaes, and for the **Incredibles 2** at 7:00 pm.

**Newcomers Committee:** We had another successful Newcomers Luncheon on 21 October and welcomed 6 new families to St. Mark. They all seemed very appreciative of us inviting them to the luncheon and were engaged in great conversations with the volunteers, Pastoral Council members, and staff who were in attendance. Our next luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Pastoral Care Team (PACT):** No November update.

**Peace and Justice Committee (PJC):** Our Weekend Meals for School Children Interfaith Project was a success! The turnout was great, the synagogue tour was informative, and the packs were efficiently assembled. Most importantly, everyone from the three faith communities enjoyed the event and felt good about it. The timing was helpful: the Sunday after the shooting in Pittsburgh.

**Next week:** We are hosting a program on Unaccompanied Youth on Wednesday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm in the Cassidy Activities Center. Kathi Sheffel, the FCPS Homeless Liaison, will explain the FCPS Homeless Education Program, and Meghan Huebner from Second Story (formerly Alternative House) will explain the community provider side of services for unaccompanied homeless youth. Please plan to attend!

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** We are in our 10th year of Shawl Ministry. We have prayer shawls available for those in need. A container of shawls is outside the parish office. We ask that the name of the recipient be submitted so we can extend our prayers to them. We do have baby blankets available as well.

**Praying College Moms (PCM):** Praying College Moms just completed their Annual Care Package drive to bring joy and comfort, with a Catholic twist, to college students. Packages went out to universities all around the nation. Locally, we support Homeless and Foster Care college-age students with packages as well, through our cooperation with Foster To Success and FCPS. One highlight of this event is the Care Package Packing Party. Every package is blessed and lovingly filled.

PCM's author, Maribeth Harper, is busy giving interviews to EWTN, Global Catholic Radio, and Busted Halo in November and December. Her book, ...And So We Pray: Guidance for Moms with College-Aged Young Adults, is available on Amazon, in local bookstores, on Kindle, and is being purchased in large amounts for use by Catholic University, Notre Dame University and Christendom University, to name a few.

The PCM monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, at 10:00 am, and 7:30 pm: and will continue until July.

**Pro-Life Committee:** Mark Rienzi, President of the Becket Fund, spoke on the legal threats to Religious Freedom on October 21 in the Activities Center. About 50 people attended. A deposit has been put down for the March for Life bus for January 18, 2019. It will leave from St. Mark at 10:30 and return around 5 PM. The 40 Days for Life campaign ended on November 4, 2018.

The Pro-Life Committee has adopted the following mission statement.

**The mission of the St. Mark Pro-Life Committee is to promote the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death by engaging our community through education, prayer and action.**

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**Remembrance Ministry:** The annual Mass of Remembrance was Friday, **November 2 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Senior Ministry (M&Ms):** No November update.

**Small Communities of Faith:** No November update.

**Welcome and Information Desk:** No November update.

## **Worship Report**

Advent and Christmas Planning: (No Change) Saturday, 8 December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception – is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be at 8 and 11 am. Wednesday, 12 December, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Fr Tuck will preside at the 6:00 PM Mass. The Worship Commission is planning the support for both of these Masses as well as other Advent/Christmas liturgies.

The Commission is still working through the challenges for this season, specifically after the Sunday, 23 December, 11:45 Mass and the first Christmas Eve Mass at 5:00 PM (Christmas Eve Masses are 3x 5:00 PM, one 8:00 PM and one 10:00 PM). With the Penance Service on Sunday, December 23, 2018, 7pm, ushers will prepare the church for the Penance Service after the 11:45am Mass, as usual. The Liturgical Art Committee will also decorate for Christmas on Sunday, December 23rd after the 11:45am Mass; volunteers are needed given the short amount of time to prepare and Christmas Eve Masses. Additionally, a team of volunteers is needed at 9am December 24 (Christmas Eve morning) to help clean up from the Penance Service, and transport items to the Gym and AC for Masses.

Nancy Novelly continues to coordinate with Modesto and maintenance staff to ensure that cleanup and re-setting of chairs in CFC gym and AC (for the Monday, 24 Dec 5 PM Masses) can take place over the Dec. 22-23 weekend.

EMHC Hand Sanitizing. The Worship Commission discussed options to ensure EMHCs hands are clean/sanitized prior to Communion. It discussed placing a pump dispenser on the Credence table (near Mary and the ambo) and other options. The Commission determined that with as many as 12 (and sometimes more) EMHCs, taking the time for EMHCs to access the dispenser would cause a severe delay in the Liturgy at that important time. As a result, the Commission determined a communication to the EMHCs regarding hand sanitization would be most appropriate. The communication reads: "Please make every effort to sanitize your hands after 'the sign of peace' and before standing in line at the altar. I recommend grabbing one of the small one-dose sanitizer packets in the Sacristy and use that after the sign of peace; any other timely and effective alternative, such as using your own small sanitizer bottle, will suffice. These are perhaps the most unobtrusive and reasonable options to some of the alternatives (i.e. placing a dispenser at the altar steps)."

Many EMHCs responded they already do this.

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## Youth Report

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