

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Date and time: November 12th 2015 at 1930.

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Parish Library C103

Attending: Father Pat, Kurt Dieterle, Bill Spalding, Alexandra Cribbin, Bill Inch, Bern Diederich, Darcie Girmus, Tim O'Connor, Eduardo Sevilla

Opening Prayer: Bern Diederich

Formation: Kurt Dieterle

Minutes: Review of October minutes

- Motion made to accept, seconded, and approved

School Update: Darcie Girmus

- Showing the Blue Ribbon award
- Open house this Thursday
- The Choir will be closing the 50th Anniversary celebration
- K-1st Grade Thanksgiving celebration is coming up
- Christmas pageant: the new instruments will hopefully be ready
- 50 coins for 50 years: Students were donating coins earned of from their piggy banks and not just requested from their parents. The event raised \$600 to help retire the debt, and gives the students a stake in the "ownership" of the CFC.
- The new project: synchronization of the clocks and the intercom system. Quotes are being sought. Money from the auction will be used to pay for this project.

- The upgrades to the security system came in under budget, with the excess funds being applied to the debt.
- St Mark's spirit wear is on display in foyer. If interested, you may purchase some for your student or yourself to show the school colors!
- PTPO will be covering 2/3 of the cost for all CYO basketball participants to have a St Mark CYO dry fit shirt. This will have major marketing implications.
- Enrollment at the school has changed a bit, as one student has departed while two new ones are now enrolled.

Finance Report: Kurt and Darcie and Father Pat for Jerry Wilkowski

- Looking at April for paying off debt
- There was an email about the debt, but many did not receive this transmission. A reworking of the information will be sent out as a regular letter. The main concept is that if 1000 families donate \$165, the debt for the CFC will effectively be done.
- There are several large school items on next month's agenda. This includes the budget and the tuition.
- Discussions on fund raising (by email, mailings, or from the pulpit) under consideration for next year
 - For the last two years, the only item mentioned has been the retirement of debt. Other subjects need to be brought up.
 - The optimal asking times are September, October, and November
 - No operations are allowed from February to May due to conflicts with the Bishop's Lenten Appeal.
 - All are theoretical options for future planning purposes

- One major note is that, unlike some schools, our tuition includes fees and therefore avoids the multiple fees being charged.

Commission Reports: (Major Highlights/Items)

- Community Service: Helen Cascio (email)
- Religious Education: Bill Spalding
 - Rite of Acceptance – 8 children, with more joining in December. There is a great amount of interest in joining the program.
- Community Growth: Kristen Day (email).
 - Bakers for funerals assisted with two services last month.
 - Seminar – “Doing the right thing” to be held in February 2016.
 - The Knights of Columbus helped deliver 3600 pounds of food to fall food drive in Manassas
 - Movie night had 100 attendees, so many that the ice cream machine ran dry!
 - The Peace Committee is sponsoring a blanket drive for the Syrian refugees.
- Worship: Bill Inch
 - Advent Christmas plans moving along.
 - The 50th Anniversary mass choir sounds great.
 - The Ushers dinner had 40 attendees. Mike O’Neill is the new president.
 - New mission statement – what is being done to improve ourselves
 - Revise the old version in the church
 - Brand it – place it everywhere, especially in the welcoming packet given to the newcomers to the parish.
 - Is it on the web site?
 - Pass it around!
- Youth: Alexandra Cribbin
 - Matter Conference – Eric attended. Would like to see more of us attend.
 - Two youth masses:

- October had over 300 attendees
- November was less well attended, but it was still awesome as it was an All Saints service.
- The leadership replacement process is underway

Old Business:

- Election Update
 - Five candidates, all have complete packets for the election
 - Rosters will be out Saturday and Sunday
 - Staffing needed at all masses
 - Ballot counters are needed for the 2nd Sunday, after the Anniversary mass and celebration.
- Newcomers Luncheon
 - 10 directories handed out.
 - The newcomers were appreciative of the meal and the company.
- Parish Breakfast
 - 1st session – very low attendance.
 - 2nd session – good attendance.
 - Should we be doing this? While this project was popular before, has it outlasted its usefulness? The competition (free donuts) seems to be more popular. The concept of ending the Breakfast was quickly dismissed.
- Mass of Remembrance
 - Well attended
 - Good work by Remembrance committee

Next Events:

- Elections
- Clothing Drive
 - Please do not bring things until Monday due to conflict with Anniversary celebration
 - Lots of items brought in last year, very successful and very helpful.
 - Encourage the youth to participate
- Anniversary Celebration
 - Preparations finished with the choirs, videos, and full reception
 - Lots to do, lots to be done

New Business: R.E. update

- Formal contact with catechists.
- The babysitting issue has gone away.
- Groups responded differently to the situation:
 - The early opening of the CFC helps, as preparations are done before mass. Other adjustments have been made to compensate with the time problems.
 - Some felt the mass times must change. This was overtaken by events
 - 3rd Group were pushing for time shift for the RE, leave everything else alone.
- The situation has effectively been resolved through
 - The early opening of the classrooms
 - The catechists turning machines on before mass

- Masses ending before or at 9:15 am
- While the situation may no longer be a problem, we need to keep our eyes open to prevent the situation from returning to the previous situation.

Eyes and Ears

- The school directory had one page missing and therefore omitted seven people. This was a printer error. The revised edition was reprinted at their cost, with directories being exchanged to pull the old version out of circulation.
- CIC – the business ethics speaker is moving to February 02.

Closing Prayer-Father Pat

Meeting adjourns: 8:54 pm

Next meeting: December 10th 7:30pm in the Rectory. Bring a plate to share.