

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2018

7:30 pm

Parish Library C 103

	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
1.	Prayer	Walter
2.	Review of Minutes	Approved
3.	New Business	
	• Church Abuse Scandal	
	○ The Listening Session was attended by about 100 persons, with many people talking about the issue.	
	○ The discussions were relevant and meaningful and from many points of view.	
	○ Some of the people were discouraged by the events and they wanted action.	
	○ It was an interesting comparison as the majority of those expressing concerns were people with older children, some even adults, and not those with the younger children. This difference between helicoptering parents and parents of yesteryear was extremely noticeable..	
	○ What is going on now vs. what will be done to those who did it?	
	○ Some concern expressed as follows: Can we have an action plan on where will it go next? Why is the Pope waiting to February? Why are we waiting?	
	○ Some had hoped for a closing comment from Father Pat, but this was a listening session and none was planned. One reason is that when Father Pat (or any priest at meetings), no one else talks.	
	○ Another session is important. Darcie Girmus might talk about the security at the CFC and emphasize that It is not happening here. Listening again, then talk about a plan of action.	
	○ Is there some sort of letter or petition to voice our parish	

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opinion and how seriously we will go?

- Can we find out what other parishes are doing? This concept was later rejected.
- Can we find out what the bishop is doing? This action was also rejected.
- Is there a way of closing the loop? Proposed solutions are to mention it in another homily or hold another meeting, etc.
- The frustration level is aimed at the bishop level and above with the bureaucracy of the high point.
- Recommendation: Draft a short letter of affirmation that we acknowledge and are vigilant, faithful, are aware of the situation, and support the cause of justice. We heard you, and have a mechanism where parishioners can sign the letter to send to the bishop. From the Pastoral Council to Father Pat and cc the bishop. To be done after the 2nd session.
- Is it possible to have a dedicated mass and then have a meal to get the warm fuzzy back?
- Could the Pastoral Council present a response during mass? Also takes into account what does the PC do.
- Conclusion: have another listening session with some discussions on security, VIRTUS, and other changes. We can't correct the past. We heard you. To get more young families, get a bigger lead time (?) due to the hectic nature of September.
- New Vice Chairperson
 - Maria Maldonado will not be able to finish term
 - Will also attend executive council meetings
 - John Piescik voted to finish the term.
- Teacher Financial Support
 - Situation resolved. The case involved some teachers needing extra aid for their own children who are attending St Mark
 - While rectified, will this be happening every year?
 - Is there anything for funding? There are 22 children of teachers

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in the school. Financial aid pool is small.

- Some schools give a 50% tuition break, many 25%, some none. Some discounts are phased by length of service.
- PTO dues? The creation of an additional box for assistance. It is difficult to determine the size and amount for the next year. May require \$24,000 per year, which means \$100 per family.
- We have other benefits, such as being the only school that gives free extended day care.
- To be discussed by finance council.
- School demographics has shifted
 - Parents have gotten younger
 - Deep pockets are no longer as thick as they were
- Try to build up alumni/endowment

4. Financial Status

Karen Asta

- Met Tuesday
- Collections are lower, but overall income is okay through other contributions.
- August attendance was much lower
- Of the 2658 registered families in the parish, 1350 families do not contribute by envelope or electronically..
- Average family contributions is \$800; of those families giving, \$1600 a year
- Capital Funds: nothing spent as FY just started. Four projects budgeted
- No offertory campaign this fall. There may be an abridged mentioning if the situation changes..
- Energy proposal being left on table. No changes at this point, as there are other possibilities including cooperative electricity.
- Tithing allocation reviewing six proposals.
- Interest rate on loans from the diocese has been reduced (but no debt)
- 2nd collection for India and North Carolina (bishops request) will be

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going over the next few weeks.

- How to donate without going to the diocese: green-colored envelopes or Capital improvement will keep it in the parish. (Diocese takes 8% of regular donations, plus a percentage for retirement religious.)

5. School Update

Darcie Girmus

- Standardization makes things easier
- New class prayer posters are on display
- A founding family donatee 17 small violins to the music department.
- Clubs: table top Games, debate team, world peace game (subterranean, surface, sky, space) simulates countries and deals with subjects as population, resources, etc.; hip hop dance; Enrichment Matters has three clubs
- Faculty: Five new staff members: 3rd grade, 5th grade, physical education, Office Manager, and Kindergarten aid
- RCIA: Half have ties to school
- Trunk or treat upcoming for Halloween
- Another first family left a pot of money for six years dedicated to students with special needs and students who excel in math
- VA tax credit scholarship: applies only to certain students, but it does apply to St Mark and gives a gift to the school.

6. PTPO Update

Cathy Abi-Khattar

- Welcome new liaison
- 11 new Active boards, new computers coming in
- New 3D printer, robotics
- STEM is being embraced
- 58 new desks allows easy access throughout the upstairs
- Spirit wear has come back! Hats and towels.

7. Commission Reports: (Major Highlights)

- **Community Service**

George McAndrews

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- Welcome new head of commission

- **Religious Education**

Walter Gawlak

- Program started
- Slightly fewer students from last year
- New classes on Wednesday
- Young folks are coming back as teachers. Considering giving them special name badges to reflect this position.
- Adult faith foundations: 12 coming up this year
- Baptisms declining, but that may be national trend
- Sunday speaker program: get people to attend!

- **Community Growth**

Betsy Zolper

- October 21 Newcomers luncheon. Please attend!

- **Worship**

Bob Lemieux

- Conflict on mass scheduling (Christmas time)
 - Same schedule: 3 masses at 5 pm, 8 pm, 10pm
- Candle followers being cleaned and maintained.
- The bishop will preside over a special mass for the disabled at 1145 mass on October 7

- **Youth**

Jim Barrett

- Fabulous kickoff event Sunday. 30 plus kids, many being younger
- Expanding Leadership; will possibly have officers and others to help develop a stronger group and resume
- Expand synergy between RE and Youth
- Youth Ministry Youth Room is beneficiary of 70 inch television and seven movie recliner chairs.

8. **Old Business:**

- **Fall Festival**

- 3rd year by Pastoral council

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- Will need help on 30th.
- Trip to Alexandria on 29th to pick up popcorn (Cathy)
- Ticket sales on Sunday (1 pm to 4 pm). Four sales assistants needed.

9. Eyes and Ears

Council

- Frequency of Committee Reports
 - Report nothing to report
- Not knowing that St Mark was here
 - Viva Vienna. Cancelled due to lack of interest and questions on the return for the effort.
 - Google. Get more IT hits. Facebook, twitter, yelp!, all other social media to get a digital presence.
- Sanitation on cleaning the hands
 - Eucharistic minister wash their hands in the Sacristy, Some carry personal bottles of hand sanitizer.
- Presence in the Narthex by PC
 - If you have a few minutes, help out
 - Liturgical Ministries (Ushers, choir, EM) should not wear name badge while serving in those capacities. Others can wear at all time.
 - Could PC stand at Welcome Booth?

10. Pastoral Issues / Status / Updates

Father Pat

- Fall Festival
- No stewardship campaign in response to PA report
- School is starting well. Not at capacity, but strong attendance.
- RE is a bit down, but working out new schedule.
- Numbers in pews last week pleasantly surprised.
- Remember that we come for the Lord, not for the priest, the music, or other reasons.

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11. Closing Prayer

Meeting Ends at 9:43.

Next Meeting: October 11, 2018

Community Service Report

Religious Education Report

- **Catechist Training:**

- a. Mainly discussed policy and procedure for Crisis Management (i.e., shooter training, tornado, fire, lockdown).
- b. Several high schoolers participating in RE this year; one in almost every class and two in lower grades.

- **Wednesday Class:**

- c. 65 children registered
- d. There are similar numbers of students in Grades 2,3,5,7 for girls Grade 7 for boys.

- **Homeschooling:**

- e. This week Ana Lisa will meet with home schooling parents.

Registration for RE:

Registrations are a little low this year even with an extra class.

Adult Faith Formation September 2018

Baptisms: There was one Baptism last weekend at the 5:30pm Mass. There are four scheduled for October 21 at 1:30pm. There is one private Baptism in September and three private Baptisms in October. In general, the number of Baptisms at Mass are going down. More parents are requesting Baptism at the 1:30 Sunday Baptisms, held outside of Mass. I looked up the number of Baptisms for the past 20 years and there is a steady decline. Over the past 10 years, the average number of Baptisms is 78 with last year being 69. The previous 10 years the average was 131 per year.

RCIA: On Saturday, Sept 22 at 5:30 Mass there are 12 people going through the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome. Nine are not Baptized and will become Catechumens and three will become Baptized Candidates. Four of the Catechumens are children (ages 7, 7, 10 and 13). There is one additional person that began Inquiry this month.

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Adult Faith Formation: There are 31 people beginning the Little Rock Scripture Study of The Gospel of John and John's letters this week on either Tuesday morning, Thursday evening or Friday morning.

Sunday Morning Program: We have a great line up of sessions for the fall with the theme *Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ: handing on the faith to our children*. The presenters are: Fr. Grinnell, Monsignor Lane, Ellen Murphy, Dr. Flanagan, Dr. Doyle and others. Our adult attendance has been falling over the past several years and I worked with some of the parents this summer to come up with better promotion and a good solid theme that we thought would be helpful, but was disappointed in the low turnout last weekend. Many parents of children in RE are dropping off the children and either going to Mass, running errands or taking another child to a sports practice or game. It's very discouraging to see the lack of participation of younger parents in our faith community.

Community Growth Report

September 2018 Community Growth Activities Report (mid June - mid September'18)

Always Our Children: No meetings in July and August. Meetings are every 2nd Monday evening of the Odd months.

Bakers for Funerals: Bakers for funerals had 3 or 4 funeral receptions in the last month. 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. Season of Creation Ecumenical Prayer service **September 20th at 7 pm** in the Msgr. Cassidy activities center followed by the film "Making Peace with Creation. 2. Mrs. Girmus has purchased a composter for the school with funds raised at "Beyond the Milky Way". Composting will begin in October. 3. Students will begin Journey North tulip project soon.

Christians in Commerce: 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: 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: A recommendation on how to proceed with this new Committee has been proposed and sent to Fr. Pat for his approval. Deacon John will be getting with Fr. Pat on this soon.

Funeral Receptions: There have been 3 or 4 funeral receptions in the last month.

Knights of Columbus: No new report.

Le Cercle Francais: Continues to meet every Tuesday from 10 am -12 and converse en Francais.

Movie Night: Family Movie Night September 14th "Paddington 2". Ice cream social at 6:30; Movie at 7.

Newcomers Committee: Has started planning for our Fall Newcomers Luncheon, which will be held on **Sunday, October 21st at 1:00pm**. We would welcome attendance by any Pastoral Council members who are available to attend to greet

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and enjoy lunch with the new members of our Parish. **If you could extend the invitation to the Pastoral Council, it would be much appreciated!**

Pastoral Care Team (PACT): No new report.

Peace and Justice Committee: is sponsoring Weekend Meals for School Children. Food for Others coordinates the preparation and distribution of weekend meals for FCPS school children, working with the schools. What can we do? First, donate food to Matthew 25 in September. Bill Grossman will be collecting food for weekend meals for school children as well as for the St. Lucy blue bag in September. Second, mark your calendars now! St. Mark is partnering with a mosque, MakeSpace, and a synagogue, Olam Tikvah, to prepare Weekend Meals for School Children in Fairfax County. We will do this **Day to Serve project on Sunday, October 28, from 2 – 4 p.m., at Congregation Olam Tikvah, 3800 Glenbrook Rd. in Fairfax.** Of course this will be an opportunity for service hours. Feel free to bring some food for the packs. Bring some friends, too!

Prayer Shawl Ministry: During these early fall days they are working on hats and scarves for the homeless to be distributed when the cold days arrive. They also make baby blankets for Project Hope in addition to prayer shawls for those ill or grieving. This is their 10th year

Praying College Moms: No new report.

Pro-Life Committee: No new report.

Remembrance Ministry: The Remembrance Ministry met recently and is working on the annual Mass of Remembrance scheduled for **Friday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m.** They send out personal invitations to all who have lost a loved one during the year (if they reported the loss to the St. Mark office). The Mass is open to anyone in the community and is especially comforting to those who are still grieving a loss, whether it occurred this year or in the past. This annual event provides solace to grieving families and is for a many an annual ritual of remembrance. Additionally, the Remembrance Ministry is working with Deacon John Allen to assist and support the developing bereavement ministry. We discussed ways in which we could be assistance to grieving individuals and families. Kathy Kelmelis, Chair of the RM, is part of the group working with Deacon John on this new ministry,

Senior Ministry (M&Ms): the M&Ms began their new year with an After Mass coffee on the 5th. Sept. 19th we will take a bus to the African American Museum, lunch in their cafe, stop by the FDR Memorial and the Martin Luther King memorial on our way back to St. Mark. We will have our own Kathy Kelmelis give a presentation on writing our memoirs at our 26th Pot Luck Luncheon. October will open with our Coffee with Deacon Allen giving the beginning of his talk on St. Luke. Our Pot Luck will include a presentation by Matrone Bush on housing arrangements for the M&M aged population! On the 24th we will take a bus to Port Tobacco and Chapel Point where we will hear Mass and tour St. Ignatius Catholic Church, the oldest continuous use church in the country.

Small Communities of Faith: No new report.

Welcome and Information Desk: No new report.

Worship Report

Worship Commission Report – June 2018

Special Mass for the Disabled: This Diocese of Arlington Mass will be celebrated at St Mark – October 7th at the 11:45am Sunday Mass. This year's annual Mass is under the direction of James Starke (new Liturgy Director for the Diocese), Bill Dalgetty (long-term St. Mark

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parishioner and father of a special needs daughter), Amy McInerney (diocesan office) and Nancy Novelly. Bishop Burbidge will be presiding with Fr. Pat, and Deacon John will assist.

The Worship Commission will determine the requirements for each of the Ministries. The bishop wants 5 Altar Servers; 3 Special Needs people have already been chosen who are not from the parish. Frankie Anstett and Elizabeth Brown will be the other two servers. Additional EMHCs will be needed as Bishop Burbidge wants two chalices for each ciborium. Programs, to include all readings and music, are being prepared by the Parish office. Diocese will pay for and print the programs, and bring them to St. Mark on Oct. 7.

A notice will be placed into the bulletin to let the parish know. We anticipate that the Mass will be full (850 people in attendance) and may need to be able to accommodate additional disabled parking spots.

Christmas Penance Service and Mass Scheduling: As reported last Spring, there are a couple challenges the Worship Commission will work through after the Sunday, 23 September, 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 is working with Crystal 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

Candle Committee: A Candle Team of four Parishioners has been established to maintain the look and effectiveness of the candles. Once a week a team member will shave the candles, if necessary, and clean the followers, candles and candle stands. Cleaning takes approximately one hour. There are an additional two volunteers perform this task for the Chapel candles. Olga Lloyd, a Parishioner, used to make the Paschal candle. With her retirement the Parish will purchase a second candle each year. Olga's candle will be used if a second is needed for use.

Youth Report

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