

Parish Pastoral Council
September 8, 2016
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Fr. Peter Gori, Fr. Arthur Johnson, Deacon Lou Piazza, Sister Madonna Kling, Chris O'Reilly, Maura Reardon, Suzie Scarpulla, Rich Padova, John Markiewicz, Monica Gallacher, Eileen Rullo, Anthony Ganci, Erik Eldracher, Thomas Papineau.

Absent: Deacon Michael Curren, Andrew Botti, Sean Sexton, David Tagilaferrri, William Green, Cindy Cookson, Brad Heim.

Opening Prayer: The group began with a prayer from "Celebrating the Ministry of Leadership"

Celebrating the Ministry of Leadership:

- Sister Madonna and Father Peter led the group in prayer followed by discussion. The members considered the responsibilities, challenges and important actions of the parish council within the faith community.
- All agreed that the council should have a regular, welcoming presence at church events, be positive and informed members of the parish community, and be open to listening to the questions and concerns of fellow parishioners. Maintaining an open channel of communication with the clergy should also be an important function of the council.
- Bridget Rao suggested the PPC should host the fellowship gathering (which follows the 9:30 a.m. Mass) a few times each year. It was also suggested that the PPC could be introduced following a Mass so parishioners can put "faces to the names" and understand the role they play in the faith community.

Religious Education Update:

- Director of Religious Education, Bridget Rao, gave the group an overview of the Religious Education program.
- With nearly 1,100 students, 600 families and roughly 130-150 catechists, the Saint Augustine RE program is one of the largest in the area.
- Three age group coordinators (grades 1-3, 4-6, and 7-10) work to plan the curriculum annually. Creative prayer ideas, social projects (older grades in particular) and integration with Masses keep the students engaged at each age group.
- Several times per year, the RE students play roles in the Masses with emphasis during the liturgical holidays. In addition, there are speakers, prayer nights, teen Masses and teaching Masses.
- Youth Ministry is well-integrated with the Confirmation program with countless service opportunities within the parish and the community at large.
- The program is ever-evolving and end-of-year catechist/student feedback is always considered when making plans. For example, this year Confirmation 1 will use a new

book, DoCat, that emphasizes the importance and relevance of service. The younger students will participate in "Resurrection Road," an interactive program for Holy Week.

- Online registration begins each May for the subsequent school year but late registrations are always being processed and class changes are requested into September when parents receive sports schedules. More and more, families are placing games/practices ahead of religious obligations.
- All communication with RE families is done via email and the addition of a texting option is being explored.
- The RE program is selling St. A's blankets for \$30 (which can also be donated to Lazarus House).

Brother Bryan Kearns:

- Brother Bryan is in his 6th year of formation for Augustinian ordination. He is spending his pastoral year at Saint Augustine, where he will play an active role in the life of the parish.
- Among the opportunities for ministerial involvement and spiritual development, Brother Bryan will be busy at Lazarus House, Mary Immaculate Health Care, Saint Augustine School, Confirmation 2, Youth Ministry, RCIA and Baptismal prep to name a few!

PPC Meeting Schedule:

Sister Madonna reviewed the PPC meeting schedule and noted the date for the Christmas social gathering on January 7, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. The October meeting is now the 20th.

Capital Projects and Funding Update:

- Fr. Peter updated the group on the major capital projects currently underway including the cleaning/restoration/protection of the stained glass windows and the replacement of the side ramp entrance and walkways.
- This church is expected to be painted in late spring/early summer 2017.

Miscellaneous:

- A "Blue Mass" to honor first responders is on Saturday, 9/10 at 4:00 p.m. and a concert for peace will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, 9/11.
- The Parish Mission will take place March 26-28, 2017.
- The group filled out CORI forms for the year.
- The 150th parish celebration began with a flower festival, "kick-off Mass" and celebration the weekend of August 27-28. Many thanks for all who worked to make it happen.

Closing Prayer - the group closed with a prayer from the "Celebrating the Ministry of Leadership" packet.