

**St. Joan of Arc
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2014**

In Attendance: Jackie Abel, Tom DeAngelis, Brian Deiling, Connie Egan, Sister Eileen, Jamieson Gill, Denise Grudi, Denise McCracken, Pat Mooney, Andrea Neves, Father Rothan, Martha Rupert, Father Wayne

Absent: Pete Bowman, Dr. Rodrigue Mortel, Susan Petrina, John Phillippy, Karen Willey

Opening Prayer & Meeting Minutes Approval

Fr. Rothan read the Ascension scripture passage from the Acts of the Apostles.

The meeting minutes from March 2014 were approved with no changes. Pat Mooney motioned to approve the minutes. Andrea Neves seconded the motion.

Growing Into Christ

Parish and Program Updates

Fr. Rothan views this meeting as a way to continue to move forward on the Growing Into Christ plan; to look at how to get more parishioners involved in the activities of the parish/commissions. The May 16/17 parish mission was instrumental in aiding those in attendance to discover where their “charism” (strength) lies. This is a time to “look forward” for the commissions. Brian Deiling commented that he received emails from those who attended the mission seeking to become involved in the parish. 78 people registered for the mission with 22 of those coming from other parishes.

Liturgy and Worship

Pat Mooney updated the council on the efforts to “fill the gaps” in liturgical/outreach ministries. The focus for those in this position will be on “welcoming” parishioners/visitors. This will be a new role within the parish as opposed to a reform of the current usher/greeter responsibilities. Guidelines will be established and published for use in training and ongoing formation. One aspect of the position will require an “awareness of what is going on” during Mass: the location of first aid items, how to contact someone for an emergency, how to clean up a spill, etc. After a 3 year (current term for Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers) term, those in this ministry would be required to retrain. This would happen at either the parish or diocesan level. Pat Mooney will provide the leadership for this new position and will be the liaison to the Liturgy Committee on an as needed basis.

Evangelization and Faith Formation

Connie Egan will be expanding the religious education program to enhance the formation for children with special needs. Adult formation would be available through an online resource.

Those in attendance at the parish mission will be invited to participate in a “follow up” session with the date TBD.

Religious education is complete for this year. Online registration for religious education will be considered for grades 1 through 8. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred at SJA on October 12, 2014.

Sister Eileen provided a school update. Enrollment for the school year 2013/2014 closed at 353 students. At this time, 362 students are enrolled for the 2014/2015 school year. The school is scheduled for Middle States reaccreditation with a visit by the reaccreditation team scheduled for the first week of May 2015. An essay penned by a middle school student was selected in the Derry Township Memorial Day contest. The student will recite the essay during the township Memorial Day ceremony. Four (4) fundraisers completed during the school year. Those deemed successful include the: Race for Education (funds paid for the new fence), annual ticket raffle, gala (attended by Bishop Gainer). The basket raffle was not as successful as expected.

The expectation is that the new security doors will be installed very soon. The doors will be relocated to encompass the REP office. A new modular classroom will replace the existing unit. 23 iPads were received from the government for use in the classrooms.

Pastoral Care and Outreach

Martha Rupert noted that the commission's plan is to continue the current effort to have various ministries work together. Fr. Rothan informed the council of the proposed "ministry brochure" developed by Victor Ruiz-Velasco. (This brochure will be included in the gift basket the commission will provide for the festival Silent Auction.) Father commented that perhaps the other commissions may want to consider providing a similar document.

The invitation letter to those with special needs letter is complete. Deacon Mortel is to contact Fr. Rothan to begin to communicate this effort to the parish.

Community Life

The Parish Festival is always in need of more help; no one is turned away. The volunteer sign-up site is "live". As this is the 40th year for the festival, Tshirts are being sold to help advertise the milestone. A link is available on the parish website to order the Tshirts. "Anchors" are needed for some efforts: french fries, handicapped parking and advertising.

Mass Mobs will be addressed after the summer. A parish hayride is being proposed for fall 2014 at Gretna Glen.

Stewardship and Development

The Capital Campaign is finishing Phase I. The commission objective was met for technology support. The group will continue to address how to increase weekly/monthly donations by focusing on tithing and planned giving. A new objective will be to develop a method to communicate to parishioners the financial needs for routine maintenance. This will be presented at the next meeting.

Other

Fence

A fence surrounding the property behind the rectory/school was recently installed, primarily for the safety and well-being of the school children. The reaction of the community was not all positive. A letter from a

parishioner voicing concern about the “implication” of a fence was shared and discussed at the meeting. This letter is a reminder that when changes will be implemented in the parish, it is helpful to be proactive in communicating said changes to the parish and, when appropriate, to the community. The playground and the field area will remain open to the community during non-school hours. It was suggested that a sign(s), employing “welcoming language” be added specifying: the available hours for playground/field use, weekend Mass times, that the enclosed area is SJA property, etc.

Website - Ministry Information

Jackie Abel requested that each commission lead review the website information, including links to specific ministries, relevant to their commission for any updates and/or additions. Each commission lead is to provide this information at the next meeting or send it directly to Jackie if available prior to the next meeting.

The council, along with the parish, wished to acknowledge the 10th anniversary of Fr. Rothan’s ordination to the priesthood. A Mass celebrating the occasion is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 6:30pm followed by light refreshments in the school cafeteria.

Next meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014

Time: 7pm

Place: TBD

Father Wayne offered the closing prayer.