

**St. Joan of Arc
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
*March 25, 2014***

In Attendance: Jackie Abel, Pete Bowman, Tom DeAngelis, Brian Deiling, Connie Egan, Sister Eileen, Jamieson Gill, Denise McCracken, Andrea Neves, Susan Petrina, John Phillippy, Father Rothan, Martha Rupert, Karen Willey

Absent: Denise Grudi, Pat Mooney, Dr. Rodrigue Mortel, Father Wayne

Opening Prayer & Meeting Minutes Approval

Fr. Rothan read a scripture passage from the gospel of John, Chapter 9.

Denise McCracken and Karen Willey were introduced as new members of the Pastoral Council.

The meeting minutes from January 2014 were approved with the following changes:

- Remove noted statements for posting on parish website.

Pete Bowman motioned to approve the minutes with the noted changes. Brian Deiling seconded the motion.

Growing Into Christ

Parish and Program Updates

Fr. Rothan has received feedback on homilies discussing the changes to the Neighborhood Christian Community (NCC) ministry and the 2014 Lenten Appeal; nothing negative. Parishioners have approached Father to offer their assistance with those parts of the NCC ministry (i.e. Second Sunday Socials) that will continue.

Second Sunday Socials. Julie Groh has volunteered to lead this program. Fr. Rothan has identified ministries to host the socials and requested those ministries to select a Sunday for their group to host; May 2014 through April 2015. Each host ministry is to identify a lead and forward that name to Fr. Rothan and Julie Groh will contact that person to review set up, serving and clean up for the event.

Fr. Rothan brought to the attention of the council the needs of autistic parishioners. Father proposed that a Mass be made available that is tailored to those who are autistic or on the autistic spectrum. This Mass may occur on a regular basis.

Pastoral Care and Outreach

The memo directed to those with special needs was revised and distributed to the council members. A further revision was requested to replace “disabilities” (Par 1, line 3) with “a disability or special need”. (Rev B will be distributed to council members when completed.) Fr. Rothan noted that one member of the clergy should be the contact person and it should be Deacon Mortel as he is the clergy representative on the commission. The memo will be published in the bulletin and discussed in a homily (similar to how the changes to the NCC were communicated). This will happen after Easter 2014.

Jackie Abel has updated the website to note the accommodations available to those with disabilities (<http://www.stjoanhershey.org/accommodations-for-special-needs.html>). A printed version of this information will be made available for posting at the entrances to the church.

Pat Mooney, Denise McCracken, Andrea Neves, Susan Petrina and Martha Rupert met to discuss and begin to develop the scope of “Ministry of Hospitality”. Various topics including liturgical services, the welcoming of new parishioners and making connections to parish life and how to engage parishioners in these areas were proposed. Pat Mooney will present this initial information at the April 22 commission meeting.

Liturgy and Worship

Susan Petrina will represent the commission at the April 22 Pastoral Care & Outreach commission meeting.

Evangelization and Faith Formation

A Virtual Pilgrimage To Our Lady of Lourdes has been scheduled at St. Joan for Thursday, April 24 at 7:30pm in the church. Pope Francis has authorized a plenary indulgence for this pilgrimage. Andrea Neves noted that 16 volunteers will be needed for this event. A volunteer meeting will be held on Thursday, March 27 to coordinate.

A middle school Anglican Choir from Australia will provide the music (prelude, opening/closing, postlude) at St. Joan for morning prayer on Good Friday at 9am.

Community Life

Brian Deiling spoke about “Mass Mobs”; a group of people within a diocese meet on a quarterly basis, select a church within the diocese and attend Mass as a group. This effort is an attempt to engage Catholics with other Catholics in the diocese. The church selected for the “Mass Mob” is often a church with dwindling membership or one in a depressed area of the diocese, etc. Brian will investigate the possibility of the Harrisburg Diocese participating in this effort.

Wednesday morning coffee after the 6:45am Mass continues to be well attended.

Stewardship and Development

Ideas for Phase II of the Capital Campaign should be funneled through the individual commissions which will then be addressed at the council meeting. Use of the existing parish buildings in their current capacity versus future use(s) should be included in the discussion as potential Phase II efforts.

The implementation of the Communications Ministry is on hold. The framework is complete and parishioners interested in participating in the ministry have been identified. The ministry is proposed to launch in Fall 2014, therefore, an update may not be available for the May council meeting.

Capital Campaign (CC)

The remaining Phase I projects underway are the church entrance awnings and the renovation of the confessionals. Bids for security doors for the school have been distributed. A bid has been received for fencing the open area behind the rectory/school.

Other projects: The current gymnasium floor will need to be replaced within the next few years. Fr. Rothan proposed following the path taken by Lebanon Catholic and install a wood floor. Additional restrictions on use, entrance to and items brought into the gym may be implemented to protect the flooring. The parish has received a small sum of money toward this project. Additional fundraising will be required to cover the cost, therefore, athletic teams may be engaged to contribute.

Other

Milton Hershey School (MHS)

Andrea Neves noted the need for the parish to engage the school students. Known difficulties were reiterated: students required to first attend a Sunday service at MHS, assurance that Catholic students, who have been given permission by their parent(s)/guardian(s) are permitted to attend Sunday Mass, religious instruction prior to their being seated for Mass (currently being addressed for the few minutes available in the narthex of the church), receiving communion properly disposed and with proper dignity, etc. The proposed “Ministry of Hospitality” has noted a line item to review the opportunities for the Milton Hershey School students to feel welcomed and be a part of St. Joan of Arc.

Next meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Time: 7pm

Place: Meeting Room A/B

Father Rothan offered the closing prayer.