

**St. Joan of Arc
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
*August 26, 2014***

In Attendance: Jackie Abel, Pete Bowman, Father Burger, Tom DeAngelis, Brian Deiling, Connie Egan, Sister Eileen, Father Lee, Denise McCracken, Pat Mooney, Dr. Rodrigue Mortel, John Phillippy, Martha Rupert, Father Sahd, Karen Willey

Absent: Jamieson Gill, Denise Grudi, Andrea Neves, Susan Petrina

Opening Prayer & Meeting Minutes Approval

The Pastoral Council members opened the meeting with the prayer service “Call to a Vision of Faith”. Introductions of the Pastoral Council members followed.

The May 2014 meeting minutes were approved with no changes. Tom DeAngelis motioned to approve the minutes. Pat Mooney seconded the motion.

Growing Into Christ

Pastoral Care & Outreach

Pat Mooney offered a brief status review of the Welcome Committee. (Pastoral Council members were provided with an update via email prior to the meeting.) For new council members, Pat provided the background for this committee: part of the former NCC program. In order to “close the gap” with new parishioners (January 2014 to date), a reception to formally welcome them into the parish will be held:

Date: Saturday, September 27, 2014

Time: 6:30pm

Place: SJA School Cafeteria

October 1, 2014 will see the beginning of a personal process to welcome new parishioners after registration. A six (6) month “follow-up” will be in place to answer any additional questions and to encourage participation in parish ministries.

Martha Rupert commented on the 2014 goals: bring together the various ministries under this commission’s umbrella to be made aware of and promote “cross ministry activity”, use available communication avenues to inform the community of the existing and updated physical accommodations in the church for those with special needs, to invite those with special needs to participation in the liturgy. Suggestions for 2015 goals include: formalize the process to engage those with special needs in the liturgy with Deacon Mortel as the pastoral contact, renew efforts to engage parishioners with our sister parish in Tarasse, Haiti.

Liturgy and Worship

Key focus: how to partner Liturgy and Worship with other commissions; Faith and Evangelization, Pastoral Care and Outreach.

As stipulated in the council guidelines, it is recommended that members serve no more than two (2) 3-year terms. Susan Petrina is completing her second term and as Chair of the Liturgy and Worship commission, will leave this seat vacant upon her departure at the end of 2014.

The question was raised concerning the duplication of efforts of this commission as the parish has an established Liturgy Committee which gives direction from the pastoral staff on matters pertaining to the liturgy.

The established procedure for bulletin distribution is to hand them out after Mass. At times, however, the bulletins are being placed in the literature holders prior to the beginning of Mass which may promote the reading of the bulletin during the celebration of the Mass. A decision is required as to which option should be followed.

Evangelization and Faith Formation

This commission has recently regrouped with adding new members. The Catholic Kids Bulletin was suggested for distribution at Masses, however, it was determined that this would be too difficult to arrange. The bulletin will be given to the SJA school children and REP students on a trial basis for the upcoming year. Two events on the schedule:

Event: Rosary Rally
Time: 12pm (Noon), Saturday, October 11, 2014
Place: Chocolate Town Square (Hershey, PA)

Event: Hour of Grace (Prayer Service)
Time: 12pm (Noon) - 1pm, Monday, December 8, 2014
Place: SJA Church

The follow-up with those attending the parish mission, "Called and Gifted" will be forthcoming. A proposal was made to continue the "Soup and Stations" on Friday evenings during Lent, 2015.

Community Life

"Mass Mobs" have been attending churches that may need a "boost" to attendance. Organizing a group of parishioners to attend targeted churches will be discussed. A parish hayride is being proposed for fall 2014 at Gretna Glen. Wednesday Morning Coffee (St. Lucy House, after the 6:45am Mass) has been very successful and the commission is proposing to expand the event: offer after the Sunday Masses, open the event to the public, expand to "9am Mass Daycare" (coffee attendees would remain at St. Lucy house to provide daycare for parents wishing to attend 9am Mass).

A comment was made that perhaps the Council should discuss if this commission should be "folded" under another commission such as Pastoral Care and Outreach. The original mission is no longer being followed and the commission is mainly focused on how to engage Catholics with other Catholics. Connie Egan suggested that as there is new leadership present in many of the commissions that Brian Deiling arrange a meeting with the commission leaders to determine how to move forward.

Stewardship and Development

Tom DeAngelis provided the overview. The commission consists of essentially three (3) support ministries: Heart to Serve, Communications, Endowment and Planned Giving. The need is to recruit volunteers for these ministries.

A discussion on the future plans for the Heart of the Parish fund is required: part of a bequest, used to pay off the debt, used for general maintenance. The annual report may be the venue to announce the future of this fund. Jackie Abel will lead this effort.

Other

Commission Membership and Co-Chair succession planning

Current Pastoral Council members tasked to propose names of parishioners for the commissions. Adding new parishioners will improve the membership of the commissions and allow for a more seamless transition in the chair and co-chair positions. The list of council members, commission chairs and co-chairs, including service begin/end dates, to be updated to facilitate succession planning for same.

Open Issues

The annual ProLife banquet will be held at the diocesan center on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 which coincides with the closing of 40 Hours Devotion here at SJA. Delores Euker, a parishioner, is to receive an award at this banquet. Fr. Burger will investigate the possibility of moving the SJA 40 Hours Devotion to November 9 through 11, 2014.

There will be a farewell reception for Fr. Chuk's after all Masses this weekend. A chalice was purchased as a gift for Fr. Chuk's.

SJA School opened with 357 students: 7 more than last year. The preschool is thriving and continuing to grow. Still awaiting the delivery of the modular classroom. The security system will be installed this fall including cameras on all outside doors. Key fobs will be in place for all outside doors for additional security. A new computer system, placing all schools throughout the diocese on the same system, is now in place. All records will now be the same.

Next meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Time: 7pm

Place: SJA Library

The Pastoral Council members completed the "Call to a Vision of Faith" for the closing prayer.