

**St. Joan of Arc  
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 2015**

**In Attendance:** Pete Bowman, Tom DeAngelis, Brian Deiling, Barbara Hasson, Alexis Horstman, Michael Milunic, Pat Mooney, Deacon Rodrigue Mortel, John Phillippy, Martha Rupert, Fr. Sahd, Fr. Al Sceski, Diane Sheehan, Chuck Stickler, Karen Willey, Crystal Wright, Carol Yakstis

**Absent:** Andrea Neves

**Opening Prayer**

Fr. Sahd read a passage from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians followed by petitions, Prayer of the Faithful.

**Agenda Items**

**Welcome and Introduction of new Pastoral Council Members**

All current and new council members, as well as staff members, provided a brief personal introduction.

**Review - Growing Into Christ; Commission Structure and Intention**

Documentation outlining the stated goal for each of the five (5) commissions, as originally presented with the Growing Into Christ (GIC) initiative, and the Objective/Mission Statement for the Pastoral Care and Outreach Commission were distributed. P. Mooney provided a brief history of the GIC process and the beginnings of the commissions. Fr. Al commented that as this structure is not the norm throughout the diocese, he was not intimately familiar with it. Fr. Al's past experience has been with a "Parish Activity" coordinator who acted as the liaison between ministries and the pastor. He asked how the commissions' efforts were communicated to the pastor with the response being a report to the Pastoral Council. Fr. Al commented that his perspective for the near term is to understand more fully how GIC functions (or does not function) at SJA and what that means for the future; where do we go from here? If the path forward is to maintain the current structure, Fr. Al would look to provide input to continue to improve the function of the GIC process.

Of the five (5) original GIC commissions, Pastoral Care & Outreach has been working with an Objective, Mission Statement and Scriptural passage to guide the group's goals and discussions. The commission includes a Co-Chair, a staff liaison and the "members" of the various ministries (typically the lead representative). Deacon Mortel noted that he had provided similar Objective/Mission Statement outlines for the four (4) other commissions to Fr. Burger. As the original documents are not readily available, Deacon Mortel offered to revisit this effort. Two (2) of the five (5) commissions are currently without chairs/co-chairs, therefore, it was suggested that filling the chair/co-chair positions, as well as adding additional members to all commissions, should be addressed. C. Stickler commented that his experience with SJA school revealed that families with young children may be more receptive to becoming involved. New council members were encouraged to consider serving on commissions if able to do so. It was also noted that, in the past, a presentation outlining the efforts of the commissions was arranged for the parish community to encourage parishioner participation on the commissions.

The expectation is that the four (4) commissions' documents (as described above) will be completed and be available for review at the January 2016 Pastoral Council meeting. This will allow for dialogue with Fr. Al on determining the "next steps".

### **Planning for Facility needs**

Fr. Al commented on the space constraints currently affecting the parish (i.e. original areas designed for parish use, now being used by the school, etc.). A proposal is under development to consider use of the convent space. Fr. Al has discussed this consideration with Sr. Eileen with no objection from her or the Daughters of Mercy. (In considering the use of the convent, the sisters would be relocated to a residence which abuts parish property on the East. The owner of the house is in communication with SJA concerning the sale of the property to the parish.) The convent space would be renovated into parish office space allowing the school offices to move to the current parish offices. Additionally, an extension to and/or renovations to the current school building will be a consideration.

Per diocesan records, the year 2020 would mark the 100th anniversary of SJA parish. The intent would be for the facility needs to be addressed in time for the celebration. Fr. Al asked for Pastoral Council commentary on the above consideration. As no objections were presented, J. Phillippy motioned for consensus from Pastoral Council on moving forward with exploring the above proposal. The motion was seconded by K. Willey. P. Mooney suggested that the proposal be communicated to the parish if/when a structured plan is in place.

### **Miscellaneous**

New members of Pastoral Council were requested to consider their terms on council as beginning immediately. Per the August 2015 meeting minutes, length of terms for new members will vary from one (1) to three (3) years. These terms will be determined at the January 2016 meeting.

A. Neves submitted her resignation as co-chair of the Evangelization and Faith Formation Commission. (Submitted via email to "Pastoral Council" address.)

## **Next Meeting**

Date: January 11, 2016

Time: 7pm

Place: TBD

Fr. Al closed the meeting with a prayer.