

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2017

The meeting was opened with a summary of Saint John of God and a prayer lead by Ken Haselhorst. Those in attendance were Fr. Dan, Lori Kampwerth, Irma Deimeke, Ken Haselhorst, Jackie Chiarolanza, Brad Richter, Terry Richards, and Corey Huegen.

Special guest Sister Ellen Orf, director of Hispanic Ministry in our area, was in attendance to meet the council and addressed the Council on the ministry. Spanish masses are held every Sunday at 11 AM in Damiansville. These services are well attended with a peak of 400 at the Our Lady of Guadalupe mass this past December. She discussed how the attendees want to assimilate into America and have some desire to also assimilate into our Parishes. She had four families on her list who live in Aviston and have attended the Damiansville masses. She believes the best thing to help assimilation is to have bridge building. Examples she gave included providing a little more training on their culture to religion teachers and catechists, having a taco stand at the church picnic, or even getting parents of PSR children to understand what to do for confirmation. She also discussed the challenges for the community, specifically the complexities of deportation giving the example of parents getting deported but the children are natural born American citizens without Mexican citizenship. When this happens parents and children can get separated even at the border.

### Old Business:

The book "Resisting Happiness" is generating a little bit of response and a small group has already met to discuss the book. Another Parish FaceBook post is desired to spread the word that groups are meeting and encourage people to either join groups or form their own groups.

The Parish Partnership meeting was Feb. 23 and a summary of this group was given. Basically there are going to be three main items to focus on going forward. These three include a focus on youth in all three parishes, a focus on vocations, and a focus on understanding and working on executing the partnership plan sent to the Bishop.

A discussion regarding First Communion and whether the Pastoral Council should do something such as give a gift were debated. It was decided to pass on this for now, however moving forward the Council may want to be mindful of future things such as this that can be done. One interesting idea was giving a gift such as a guardian angel medal which clips to the visor for each parishioner who gets their driver's license. This may be a good way to reach out to the teenagers of the Parish and be a faith reminder.

The Bible Study was discussed and it was passed on that Deacon Steve may have the materials still available if one wanted to do their own self study at home.

Theresa Richards had suggested the Rice Bowl idea last month but due to time constraints has decided to pass on it this year. She still wants to do something and is considering other projects that

may be more impactful, such as an idea similar to Carlyle where they are raising money to help build wells in poorer areas.

Jackie Chiarolanza presented the information on Church Directory options which is being targeted for this coming winter/spring. The Heritage Room is the best place for photographers and therefore Jackie will check the availability of the room. The desire is to have at least a session where college kids may be home from school, such as Christmas or spring break. The directories cost nothing since the photographers make their money on people purchasing their family photo.

#### **New Business:**

The Pastoral Council portion of the website was discussed in order to get updated pictures of the current members. Pictures were taken of each person present, and there is still a desire to get a group picture.

#### **Pastor's Notes:**

Melissa Faust has accepted the position of Director of Religious Education for St. Francis Parish. This position covers more than just the PSR program, it covers the entire Parish's faith formation and education.

Cathy Schroeder will be offering time for education and materials on financial planning and wills.

The sound system was discussed on replacing the old, outdated, and barely working system. It will become a digital system and will hopefully be in place by Easter.

The CYM has an issue with dying Easter eggs since the Legion is going to plastic eggs. The only "customer" becomes Father Dan therefore there was a discussion surrounding whether the CYM should color eggs for Father or provide plastic eggs. Father likes real eggs since it represents new life. Since there are also a lot of kids who still bring their Easter baskets to church there seems to be a demand for real eggs as well, therefore the Council believes coloring real eggs is still worthwhile.

The next meeting will be April 12, 2017.