

St Francis of Assisi Parish

Pastoral Council Minutes

February 26, 2018

The February 2018 pastoral council meeting was called to order at 6:30 by President Chuck Simpson, Fr. Stephen in attendance

Members present: Chuck Simpson, Diane Hoy, Tim Koerber, Minerva Colon, Diane Rieves, Kathy Leigh, Linda Laurendeau

Staff Present: Margaret Hettler, Christine Stillings

Guests: Ellen Simpson

Fr. Stephen opened the meeting with prayer.

It was noted that the March 26 pastoral council meeting would be cancelled as it falls during Holy week.

January 2018, meeting minutes were approved with changes.

Pastoral Planning

Parish Directory:

Diane Hoy reported that there will be a meeting on March 22 with representatives of Life Touch, Diane, Margaret and Fr. Stephen. Life Touch is a reputable organization with experience at other parishes. The organization is very flexible and accommodating of the parish needs

Parish History:

Earl and Diane met with Fr. Stephen to review progress. The document has undergone many revisions and improvements. Fr. Stephen expressed support for the ongoing effort.

With All your heart: Christine Stillings reported on current efforts. This is an activity that has been ongoing for a couple of years at some financial cost to the parish. Christine gave a brief history of the activity and distributed a survey to the council seeking information as to the overall support of the council. The council discussed the ongoing merit of "With all Your Heart" in terms of participation, contribution to growth and parishioner retention as compared to the cost. Some of the activities supported by with All your Heart such as the Ministry Fair and the Jesse Tree during advent. It was noted that the program offers a large "buffet" of opportunities, but with limited participation the cost seems high. Fr. Stephen concluded that a break from the program may be in order and that he would review the survey results. The consensus of the council was to conclude the program. Fr. Stephen suggested that such programs receive full vetting of the council to ensure complete dialog before we proceed in the future.

At the end of this discussion it was noted that the various liturgical ministries reporting to Jonathan Branton are not represented at pastoral council meetings. Margaret Hettler noted that all liturgical activities have published schedules and that all of these activities operate under Jonathan who holds meetings as required. An example is a recent meeting of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC). Diane Hoy mentioned that the results of these meetings might be of interest to the council. Fr. Stephen suggested that Jonathan and the ministry heads (such as Catholic Youth Enrichment (CYE) or the teen group) attend the council meeting twice a year. These bi-annual meetings would have special agendas so each ministry had ample time to report to the council. Tim and Chuck took an action to work such reporting meetings into the council schedule – one at the beginning of the year and one mid-year.

Chuck noted that Jonathan has a standing invitation to the council meeting.

It was also noted that the Knights of Columbus was not represented at the meeting. Tim took an action to contact Ricardo Mira to express the council's desire for a representative.

Ministry Reports

Council of Catholic Women:

Diane Rieves reported the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) continues the organizations great work. There are many ongoing and new activities. Please see the attachment for recent activities.

Food pantry:

No report

Hispanic community:

Minerva Colon reported that St. Francis of Assisi parish is reaching out to the community by providing masses at three community centers beginning this Wednesday February 28th. Fr. Mathew will celebrate mass at the Brightwood community center. People without transportation will be transported to the center by vans. The service will begin with the saying of the Rosary followed by mass. There will also be masses at Chalet North and Rock Springs.

Kathy Leigh mentioned that there is a group to people in Zellwood station that would also benefit from such a program. Fr. Stephen advised caution as we are just starting up this ministry.

The Hispanic community continues in preparation during Lent. It was noted that the Spanish leadership committee is effectively serving the community. Also, Minerva expressed her gratitude that the Hispanic community is growing and that all masses are full.

It was noted that the parish needs to hold registrations after mass.

Haitian and Phillipino Communities – No Report

Prior Business

Pastoral Council Constitution

The council discussed the current state of the council constitution. Discussion as to the history of the current revision and how many iterations it has undergone continued. It was noted that the current version and the draft revision are wordy and at times conflicting. Also noted is the desire to embrace succinct and brief requirements for the council that are in accordance with canonical requirements. The path forward will be determined after Fr. Stephen has an opportunity to review the documents.

Traffic Safety

Linda Laurendeau reported on the status of our request for review of the traffic patter at the entrance of the church. This request has been received by the city of Apopka and has been forwarded to Richard Earp, the city engineer. Linda reported that the matter was presented to FDOT, the authority over the road (US 441) and that it may be several more weeks until they issue a decision. Linda has begun to research other options to improve safety at the entrance.

New Business

Diane Hoy asked how we are contacting the Haitian community. Are they receiving parish bulletins? Fr Stephen advised the council that he has had a discussion with the Bishop regarding the subject. The diocese has a longer term desire to attract the community to St. Andrew's where a larger Haitian group is forming. We do not want to accelerate this process, but just let it make normal progress. In the meantime, members of this community are welcome at any mass. Margaret Hettler said she would ensure bulletins are available to the community.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Stephen again welcomed us to a new year as this is his first meeting of 2018. He expressed his delight with the council interaction and the overall spirit of the council. The council is helping him get a feel of the parish. He challenged the council to develop plans such as the Ministry Fair and other things to bring us closer to God. We need to ask ourselves how we can improve our success and to evaluate the effectiveness of progress. He cautioned us not to fall into the "that's the way it's always been done" mentality. We need to reach out to the parishioners, encourage growth in numbers and in faith. He expressed that an evening of reflection for the council would help focus us.

The meeting concluded with a prayer at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Koerber Secretary, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Pastoral Council

Attachments:

