

St. Agnes Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes September 21, 2016

Members Present: Tom Ruhf, Donna Eby, Barbara McDonald, John King, James Eros, Jill Wilberding, Jessica Shaffer and Fr. T. Mathew Rowgh.

Opening Prayer: Led by Jill Wilberding, Facilitator.

1. Minutes of August 17 meeting approved

2. With regard to Goal 5, Jan Yates reports that the OWLs hope to have their goal work completed by early November. Their work centers on a resource booklet for seniors/family, and a suggested plan for home ministry. The OWLS will not run the home ministry program, but merely suggest through research, interviewing, etc. a format for a strong ministry that would meet the needs of St. Agnes community. Should the Pastoral Council approve, then it would be open to the parishioners to coordinate. Barbara Mueller wondered if the parish nurses are responsible for all 4 objectives of Goal 5. Is a team required for each objective? She thought that to be a daunting task.

(The problem of adequate funding was raised as we try to meet the financial needs at both the Diocesan and Parish levels).

3. Following Rodica's presentation on August 17, some committee members wondered if, perhaps, it was not too academic.

They would like to see and seek a more spiritual formation, dealing with traditional spiritual traditions and practices. Faith formation for children is just starting up and we would like to help.

4. The annual picnic was a success, some 32% more parish participation at a lower cost than last year. Two hundred and thirty-three parishioners attended the picnic, 163 adult and 70 youths. Note: a table should be set up so that people who use walkers and wheelchair should not have to cross the grass.

A complete record detailing the planning of the 2016 Parish Picnic was submitted by the Committee to be made part of the Council's historical record in planning future picnics. Other objectives of Goal 4.2 are being met to include Liturgical Coffee and Snacks being provided by the Hospitality Committee after all Masses and the Social Activities Committee will be assisting Eileen Dooley by providing light lunches for the Guest Speakers Ministry. The Social Activities Committee will be reaching out to other ministries if they need assistance.

The Social Activities Committee suggests some new concepts to be considered for future picnics. The intent is to off-set the cost of the picnic and increase parish attendance

5. Tom Ruhf submitted a report on Goal 6. He believes that objectives 6-1 and 6-2 are essentially being fulfilled with current and ongoing

activities. Objective 6-3 has some programs in the works with an October planned presentation on How Catholics Vote by Dennis Woods. There are plans to have representatives from the Catholic Conference of WV present something on upcoming legislative issues for 2017. Also working with the book club, objective appropriate discussions on Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson and On \$2 a Day by Kathrin Eden and Luke Sheffer. We have some potential local talent available on environmental issues with David Manthos with Sky Truth, Daniel Cogswell (Margaret Cogswell's husband) with the Potomac Valley Audubon Society and Rosemary James with the Boonsboro town environmental and green initiatives. We could also consider inviting Sister Simone Campbell (or a representative) from Network, a watchdog and advocacy organization for Catholic justice issues.

Objective 6-4 is being fulfilled by our St. Vincent de Paul Society which recently sponsored their walk for the poor.

Objective 6-5 is in development with initiatives presently being investigated. Also a great possibility for consideration from advisory committee member, Margaret Cogswell, who is the Executive Director of the local Hospice Program, that we might think about creating a ministry by homebound individuals to reach out to other homebound individuals by phone, and also do some other forms of home communications on behalf of other parish organizations. These people are an untapped resource that would enrich their lives and the life of the whole parish community, and help the homebound feel more a part of that community.

Note: At the end of the meeting some members spoke informally of the relatively new practice of holding a workshop committee meeting to prepare for the official monthly meeting.

The meeting closed with a brief, eye-closed meditation, and a choir recording of the lovely All through the Night.

Respectfully submitted,
John King