

Pastoral Council Meeting Notes April 17, 2024

Present: Fr. Andy Switzer, Christine Wiegman, Shana Harris, Patrick Green, Gil Sateia, Becky Tokarcik, Connie Bonner, Derrick Gallager, Brendan Jarrell, Vanessa Santiago, Heather Garcia
Not present: Colin Hayden due to work obligation.

Roles: Pastor: Fr. Andy; Co-chairs: Colin Hayden, Christine Wiegman; Prayer leader: Vanessa Sanchez
Recorder: Brendan Jarrell

Opening Prayer / Reflection

1 Corinthians 12 was read by Vanessa. Moral: We're all one family with the same goal.

Andy -- Pastoral council is called to see the body and the parts and how they fit together.

The sum is greater than the parts; as we do vision board, we're trying to nail down who we are as a faith community.

PC is going to need to look at who our groups in parish (i.e. laudato si, building committee) are and adapt to post covid times (back in-person).

We need to relate to the members of the parish and see how they fit in the larger body.

"If you're going to build a house, you need to start with a strong foundation."

PC did an exercise with many parts making a body in the middle of the table.

- Initially we don't know what our part is in the body and what we'll contribute, but the picture comes into frame when we work together.
- Iteration and ideation allows you to discover where your part fits.

We need to get groups in St Agnes to go for the "why of the what". Why do we do what we're doing?

Our role is to see the bigger picture, the committees are more focused.

Gil suggested a survey to find out where each parishioner's heart lies (time/talent/treasure); Parish directory will help us know one another better.

Updates / Quick Business

- Blessing for PC members
 - We have terms on the pastoral council. It has been three years (before COVID) but Fr, Andy thinks we may benefit from 4 year terms.
 - Andy: Might need to do a referendum on the PC term conditions because a lot of people are new and there's a lot of exciting development in the group.
 - Becky and Gil will be leaving in June. Group thinks it would be nice to honor them during our mass blessing.
 - Colin and Christine will be staying on in order to continue the PC leadership.
 - May 18th and 19th will be the blessing weekend.
- Summer schedule (potential retreat?)
 - We will not be having a July meeting.

We need to communicate with the parish picnic committee to see what their thoughts are for this year.

Agenda

- PC report input (Christine and Colin)
 - Getting the parish directory put together.

- Setting a vision for the church. “Crafting a vision for where our church is headed in a holistic way; something that will include everybody.”
 - Who do we want to be and how are we going to get there?
- We began to discuss achievements of the pastoral council over the past 2 years:
 - Setting pastoral vision using the synodal process.
 - Started a gathering space committee.
 - Discernment Retreat
 - Adult Faith Formation
 - PC supported parish picnic
 - Shepherd student dinner
 - Ecumenical Lent
 - We support new ministries: Laudato Si committee, Hispanic outreach
- Vision and Leadership presentation (Derek and Andy)
 - Going over mental/intellectual aspect of vision
 - Language is crucial
 - Lifelong learning and faith formation
 - People may have not had exposure to the faith as children and there might be a gap in their development spiritually and in their understanding of the church
 - There’s a stopping point in spiritual development after confirmation
 - How many walked away from the church then came back later?
 - How do we use marriage and baptism to welcome people back into the church?
 - Include book of the month on calendar / quotes on calendar and bulletins.
 - Ultimately, if you can show people the giants of our faith and the lineage we carry on it may inspire them towards deeper devotion and relationship with God.
 - Discussion sessions for books of the month.
 - How do we reach our youth through books / activities / discussion groups?
 - Book readings that tie in to our scripture reading for the week.
 - I-Spy of parts of church for kids to look at during services.
 - (These ideas are good for us to serve as liaisons for other groups that hit the ground running in the church.)
 - We need to have a discussion with Bob Keffer re: adult faith formation
 - Spiritual vision
 - Rosary is a big way to pray together as a group; it’s a tool!
 - Young people today may desire centering prayer, some sort of disconnection from their hectic lives. We need to equip them with spiritual tools.
 - Holistic faith formation. All parts of the vision need to be working together.
 - Empowerment requires effective communication. What communication / combination of communication tools can we use to reach people? Can we empower our community to inspire action?
 - Responsibility: How can I take ownership and keep a group/committee going once it starts.
 - We need to clearly define and communicate (with one another).
 - We need to have all of the ministries in the church in one place (a master list).
 - We need to have a standardized welcoming kit for new members of the church. There used to be a pamphlet that would tell you about what was going on in the church.

Question asked: What’s next for all this stuff we’re writing?

- If you don’t have concrete actions, a vision board is nothing.

- Refinement comes next. One idea: vision boards.

- First narrow, then come up with a statement to guide us as a parish; have the foundation, then build on top of it. The scaffolding.

- Rather than being in control, we’re (PC) suggestive.

Who we become in Christ is more important than the things we accomplish.

Next meeting will be May 15th at 6:30 in the parish hall.