

Pastoral Council Notes

May 17, 2023

Present: Fr. Andy Switzer, Christine Weigman-Green, Colin Hayden, Patrick Green, Connie Bonner,

Gil Sateia, Becky Tokarcik, Bill Sagle

Not Present: Shana' Harris, Kathryn McAteer

Opening Prayer: All

Christine told the council that she intends to spread the responsibilities among members of the council so that each can contribute at the meetings.

Feedback and Visitors to St. Agnes

Patrick asked for any feedback from council members as the eyes and ears of the parish.

Fr. Andy spoke of a group of students who were visiting the area from Michigan by bus and attended Sunday Mass at St. Agnes. This group had intended to visit the National Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, but travel limitations prevented them from doing so. Catholic students in the group Googled churches in the area and saw St. Agnes. Their presence was very positive for them and for St. Agnes parishioners.

Connie also remarked about the students visit and the positive reactions from parishioners regarding Bishop Stowe's visit. Gil commented on the excellent fellowship that followed each of the bishop's talks. Bill added that he also heard positive feedback regarding Bishop Stowe and that his effort to come to St. Agnes is viewed as a significant recognition of the parish's effort to be progressive in the wishes of Pope Francis.

Fr. Andy mentioned that hospitality is a gift of our parish and that St. Agnes Parish is going through an anointing. Our parish community is growing and young people are becoming leaders. He also spoke of the intergenerational garden that was recently started at the parish.

Christine noted that there seems to be more families in the parish with young people to work with us and that Fr. Andy deserved credit for attracting younger people to our parish.

Colin spoke of how excited his daughter is to take part in the intergenerational garden at St. Agnes. This is an example of involving younger people in parish activities.

Pastoral Council Size & Membership

Gil focused the council on the fact that there are only nine members of the council at this time and will be down to eight after June when Kathryn McAteer's term expires. Gil provided excellent analysis of what council's role and what criteria should be employed to recruit membership on the council. (Please see attached documents prepared by Gil Sateia—page 5.)

This presentation led to discussing ways of identifying possible new Pastoral Council members. Connie expressed a willingness to speak with some parishioners who she feels have an interest in joining the council. She feels that bringing younger parishioners onto the council is a good idea and people with children might be a group upon whom we might focus.

Patrick added that perhaps a social event to gather council members. He mentioned having two members of the current council focus on new members and having a structured event with PC member candidates to get to know the current council and the roles of the membership.

Fr. Andy feels that the pulpit is not the best way to recruit council members for the council. He mentioned that we need to ask ourselves what kind of person will make a good member of the council. How do we get a sense of what new people we might want to recruit.

Christine suggested that we consider the guidelines that we should adhere to and not adhere to in choosing new members.

Pastoral Council Retreat

Colin brought forward the idea of a PC retreat. The when and where of a retreat was considered and the possibility of having two retreat dates – one with council candidates – is something that might be considered.

Late August or September were mentioned as a possible times for the retreat. Colin said that August 19th seems like an agreeable date or September 2nd.

Becky asked where will hold the retreat.

Patrick said that we should try to find and agree upon a retreat leader.

Gil mentioned that we must decide upon a theme and goals of a retreat and that this is a good time to let prospective council members know what to expect if they become members.

Christine said that the PC should know the vision of the parish and not get caught up in the minutiae.

Fr. Andy said that if new members are present we can discuss what we are doing within the council. He also suggested that we could focus upon teamwork and the possibility of using the Meyers/Briggs survey. He feels that putting something into the hands of new members – like a job description – is a good idea. Fr. A feels that our mission and vision should be part of the retreat.

Parish Picnic

Connie brought up the idea of reviving a parish picnic. She said the fellowship is the idea of a picnic. We need youth-gear activities. Food should be simple picnic style food, but the pot luck model is not a good idea, but food will have to be coordinated. Non-alcoholic beverages provided by the parish. Games and activities can include karaoke, face-painting, corn hole and that the youth can help with the games and entertainment while adults socialize. A picnic will be one way to reach out to families and build a social committee.

We must be mindful not to create too much waste.

Fr. Andy said that the social committee at St. Agnes is no longer active and it needs to be restarted.

Gil said that perhaps a picnic committee needs to be put together. Fr. A and Connie said that they will work together to do so.

Patrick said that we have to try to avoid having 20% of the people doing 80% of the work on the picnic planning and implementation.

A date will be needed and a place for the picnic. The parish grounds or Morgan/Grove Park are possibilities.

Fr. A said that we will have only two Masses on the weekend of the picnic. There was a suggestion that we have Mass prior to the picnic at the site of the picnic and this idea was well received by the PC.

Becky said that we must be mindful of those who have to work at the picnic and want to go to Mass.

Next Month's Agenda

The picnic, a suggestion box in the narthex and revisiting St. Agnes Pastoral goals were mentioned to be added to the June meeting agenda.

The next council meeting will be June 21 at 6:30.

Blessing Council Leadership

The meeting was concluded with a blessing by Fr. Andy of Christine and Colin as our the new leaders of the Pastoral Council. All council members present joined in prayer.

Selecting New PC Members

From our high in April 2022 of 13 members, we have lost Peg, Carmela, Amie, Richard, and now Kathryn. Starting June 1, the PC will consist of 8 folks in addition to Fr. Andy, whose tenure expires as follows:

2024 – Colin, Becky, Christine and myself

2025 – Connie, Patrick, Bill

2023 – Shana

(Might want to consider adjusting the tenure expiration dates for Christine and Colin.)

The Parish Community and the Selection Process

- Because the PC is a visioning body, 8 – 10 members is sufficient.
- Members of the PC should be called forth from the community by a selection process rather than by election.
- Basic criteria for a parishioner to be given selection consideration:
 - Be a baptized, practicing Catholic;
 - Have been a registered member of the parish for at least five years;
 - Be a participant in the ongoing life of the parish, especially Sunday Eucharist; and
 - Be at least 21 years of age.
- Individual should possess the following characteristics:
 - A desire for spiritual growth in oneself and in the parish;
 - Enthusiasm about the future directions of the parish;
 - Willingness to listen, to speak honestly, and to work toward consensus;
 - The ability to inspire and empower others and to delegate; and
 - Flexibility and openness with people and ideas.
- Gifted in the area of pastoral leadership (elements of pastoral life with which the PC concerns itself):
 - Evangelization Worship Word

Community Service Stewardship

- Recommended that the length of service for PC members be no less than three years and no more than nine for the sake of continuity and stability without stagnation.

Revising the Parish Pastoral Council provides a “Sample Pastoral Council Identification Form,” an agenda for an “Information Session for Potential Council Members,” a “Discernment for the Ministry of Leadership,” a “Sample of ‘Willingness to Serve’ Form,” and a “Suggested [9 week] Timeline for the PC Selection Process.”

Past experience at St. Agnes

Announcement from Pulpit; People nominate others

Direct solicitation

Letter of invitation to come to a meeting

Nominees make their decisions

Names dropped in a hat

Possibles:

John and Teace Noel (already said they'd be interested)

Brendan Jarrell

Derek Gallagher

Michael Davis

Rafe Hughes