

Pastoral Council Meeting Notes  
October 16, 2024

**Present:** Fr. Andy Switzer, Colin Hayden, Shana Harris, Patrick Green, Vanessa Santiago Christine Wiegman, Heather Garcia, Connie Bonner, Bassell Franks

**Not present:** Brendan Jarrell

**Roles:** Pastor: Fr. Andy; Co-chairs: Colin Hayden, Christine Wiegman; Prayer leader: Vanessa Santiago (led by Fr. Andy today); Recorder: Brendan Jarrell (Christine Wiegman recorded for this meeting)

**Opening Prayer:** Led by Vanessa

Reading: - 1 Corinthians 1:10

Reflections: The idea of community coming from a sense of responsibility we have for one another, and the importance of “smelling like a sheep” in our role on the council. Also mentioned the bishop’s recent visit and homily. Reflection on the retreat and how it pointed out important things about St. Agnes’ diverse demographics. Look for what we have in common more than how we are different.

**UPDATES/NEW BUSINESS:**

**Trunk or Treat** – Bill Donahue presented

- Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> 5:30 set up. 6-7pm trunk or treat. Bill requested assistance from the council, with set up/parking, supervision, hand out candy and clean up. Help promoting the event. Ecumenical youth group haunted house. Opportunity for intergenerational, ecumenical community building. Bring candy or decorate car. Bassell will help Fr. Andy with opening prayer.

**Parish Ministries**

- Purpose statements needed. PC volunteers needed to contact the leader of each ministry/committee and request a one sentence purpose statement to be included in the ministry guide to help parishioners to know what they do/ what they’re about. Heather, Connie, Bassell, Shana – volunteered to go first and will meet with Fr. Andy about developing questions to ask to be consistent. Also ask about what they have been doing and what they are planning. Rosanne Hutton is entering the info for the ministry guide for the website and perhaps printing.

**Gathering Space**

- A non-profit business plan must be submitted to the diocese. Pastoral Council, finance council and the Gathering Space committee will work together to write the plan. Steve Bledsoe, Margaret Cogswell and Christine Wiegman will develop the business plan. Fr. Andy met with the Bishop and mentioned to him the property that had been purchased for St. Agnes, but is not being used. Fr. Andy mentioned the possibility of buying a very large tent to begin to use in the meantime in order to start building community right away. It could show the need for the space. Also brought up the need to create a level space/accessible and the cost of that.

**Stewardship Plan**

- Need for ongoing stewardship efforts for health of parish (deeper participation in ministries, activities, education and financial giving). Develop a committee to work on a stewardship plan that would match St. Agnes parishioners/demographics. Would a survey be helpful? Are there other ways to learn about the needs and talents/skills of the parish – specifically CFF families

mentioned. Are parents overwhelmed by information? Learn what stewardship-time/talent/treasure campaigns/programs are out there. Christine volunteered to work on this.

#### **New PC members and changing roles**

- Bassell Franks welcomed onto the council. Cate Hershey also accepted but is unable to attend this month. Fr. Will follow up with Gerry Fitzgerald and Blanche Landry. Anna Bledsoe expressed desire to be the ecumenical liaison and report to the pastoral council.
- Due to Christine taking on other roles (on the team to write the business plan and the stewardship efforts) she asked for PC members to pray about whether they can step into the co-chair role with Colin. Christine offered to mentor and briefly described the role/duties. Further discussion at November meeting.

#### **Pastoral Council report**

- The report has been written for several month. It will be sent to the council for review and then changes, edits will be made at the November meeting and it will be read at Masses on a TBD weekend and included in the bulletin.

#### **Meeting review and clarification of questions**

**Closing prayer and next meeting reminder:** Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30.