

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting September 20, 2017

In attendance: Linda Arnold, PPC; Cecilia Boudreau, President PPC; Judith Brusseau; Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation and Religious Education; Kathleen & Kevin Coogan, PPC; Reverend C. Kevin Gillespie, S.J., Pastor; Christopher Hale, PPC; Chris Hannigan, PPC; Charlie Hennessy, Holy Trinity School Principal; Kenny Kraft, PPC; Paul Maco, PPC; Paula McCabe, Parishioner; Martina O'Shea; Pastoral Associate for Ignatian Spirituality; Karelia Pallan, Director of Communications; David Pennington, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy; Carlos Salinas, PPC; Rock Schuler, Director of Stewardship; Marylou Shiels, Parish Life Committee Chair; Roger Sullivan, Ignatian Spirituality Committee Chair; Jim Thessin, PPC; Ellen Touts, Vice President PPC; Kirk Willison, PPC.

Cecilia and Linda each offered opening prayers. Linda's prayer connected us with Rosh Hashanah, Jewish calendar year 5778 that began this date at sundown.

No comments during Parishioners' open forum.

PPC June minutes approved with no opposition. Motion offered by Kirk, seconded by Chris Hannigan.

Cecilia reviewed the September 9 leadership retreat and new PPC member orientation, whom she welcomed to their inaugural PPC meeting. Suggested that a useful framing question could be where do we see the Parish in 5, 10, 20 years; that the Parish Assessment and Renewal Project (PAR) allowed us to identify needs and gaps. The new Mission Statement will help guide us.

There is one current vacancy on the PPC due to Margaret Miller's resignation.

Fr. Gillespie delivered the Pastor's Report, along with various staff members present:

What might be the different approaches to disseminating the Mission Statement, including the Parish Bulletin. A discussant suggested that something like the statement needs to be placed some 12 times in front of someone before it sticks. Kirk suggested that it could be incorporated in the beginning of Mass and Fr. Gillespie suggested that the Liturgy Committee could take a closer look at this suggestion. Kirk introduced the Mission Statement's acronym that Holy Trinity ACTs: we accompany, we celebrate, we are transformed.

200th anniversary of Holy Trinity School is in the Fall of 2018 and someone from Loyola Press is producing a seven segment video for the Parish website. 225th anniversary of Holy Trinity Parish is in the Fall of 2019. David stated that both will have special liturgical celebrations. Fr. Gillespie stressed that both dates are key opportunities.

Rock Schuler introduced himself as our new Director of Stewardship. Former pastor of the Episcopal Church who has been helping Parishes, discerning the work of the Holy Spirit, the work of God.

In 2019 we will undertake more repairs to the main church.

Judith stated that 700 children are enrolled in Religious Education. Xareny Jackson is a new staff. Fr. Gillespie said that Sara Seligmann gave birth to a son and is moving away.

Charlie stated that Holy Trinity School has 344 enrolled students (the cap is 345) and four new teachers and seven new assistant teachers.

Discussion about Jim Martin, S.J.'s visit to speak about his new book Building Bridges had strong support in the PPC. Discussion centered on ensuring security, possible media. Karelia provided social media context and current media plan.

Fr. Gillespie announced his running a group to discuss the Vietnam War, given the Ken Burns documentary.

Cecilia opened the discussion on roles of PPC liaisons to the different committees. October and April will have Parish Leadership Nights where all committee members will be invited. Discussion centered on roles of liaisons and looked at broader area of how to best harness and support all of the energy in the Parish. There was general agreement that PPC liaisons' key role is to be a two way bridge, providing both committees and PPC with information about what each body is doing and what else might be afoot in order to better support each of their efforts. This also extended to the staff liaison to each committee, as Paul explained. Charlie in various points of the meeting explained the structures, composition, and functions of various Holy Trinity School advisory groups.

There was a related discussion about a master calendar that can have all of the events in the Parish and one about how each committee manages the orientation of new members. David stated that staff have a meeting every two weeks to review the calendar.

Cecilia asked if all of the committees are all moving in a desirable direction, consonant with our mission and mindful of a longer time frame. Charlie cautioned that even though there are many great ideas, we have to ensure that we have the capacity and participants.

Cecilia discussed the committees' establishment of goals, that each committee should report on their previous goal and what the new goal is or is developing, consonant with the PAR recommendations and the Mission Statement and suggested that the PPC liaisons can encourage the 5, 10, 20 year horizon approach.

Important reality check was that the committees do not operate budgets, with the exception of the Parish Finance Council. So the PPC is the steward of parishioner time and energy.

Jim Thessin raised that in addition to operational goals, there are thematic cross-cutting issue areas and that we should be mindful of the signs of the times. The discussants entertained the idea of yearly themes and learned that Parish Staff has a January meeting and process to determine the yearly events. After a vigorous discussion, the yearly theme idea was tabled. A suggestion was raised that there could be an agenda item of the PPC meetings called "Signs of the Times" to ensure that we do not miss key movements and moments.

October 4 is the Executive Committee of the PPC meeting which will address the PPC liaison and the October 18 Leadership Night meeting of the PPC.

Participation in the Principium program was encouraged: a lay formation process on Jesuit spirituality to help us understand what we do and how we do it.

Jim gave a shout out to the pilgrimage to the Middle East including Jerusalem.

Ellen closed the meeting with a prayer.

Approved November 15, 2017.