

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting 15 November 2017

In attendance: Linda Arnold, PPC; Cecilia Boudreau, President PPC; Kathleen and Kevin Coogan, PPC; Rev. C. Kevin Gillespie, S.J., Pastor; Beth Gray (for part of meeting), Chair of the Social Justice Committee; Christopher Hale, PPC; Chris Hannigan, PPC; Rev. William Kelley (for part of meeting), S.J.; Kenny Kraft, PPC; Dennis Lucey (for part of meeting), Parishioner; Paula McCabe, Parishioner; Martina O'Shea (for part of meeting), Pastoral Associate for Ignatian Spirituality; Carlos Salinas, PPC; Jim Thessin, PPC; Ellen Toups (by phone), Vice President PPC; Kate Tromble (for part of meeting), Pastoral Associate for Social Justice; Kirk Willison, PPC; Barbara Zientek Perez (for part of meeting), Parishioner.

Kenny Kraft offered the opening prayer.

No comments during Parishioners' open forum.

Jim Thessin had a quick question about the September meeting minutes which was resolved, then he offered a motion to accept, seconded by Linda Arnold, and approved with no dissents.

Kevin Gillespie, S.J. delivered the Pastor's Report [reflects answers to questions]:

- University of Notre Dame engaged the Young Adult Community as a focus group for a new website.
- In February expect the legal closing with Georgetown University on Holy Rood Cemetery, to be followed by sonar work on the proposed site for the columbarium. Financial negotiations will follow.
- There will be a coordinated campaign around the "sermon on the amounts" linking it to distributing the annual report and teaser numbers in the bulletin's Pastor's Column. To be followed by a letter breaking out the three key words of the mission statement with pictures. There are 3500 registered parishioners but 4500 pledge letters being mailed out. Ongoing discussion about database accuracy.
- Along with Bill Kelley, S.J.; and David Pennington, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy. Fr. Gillespie has been engaged in a discerning process around the three daily masses, has met with the attendees of those masses, and will decide within two weeks' time.

TOY SUNDAY

A proposal to end Toy Sunday was the subject of a lively, spirited discussion. Beth Gray presented the reflection of the Social Justice Committee, and was informed, in part, by a book called Toxic Charity by Robert Lupton. The Committee wants to ensure that charitable works place first and foremost the needs of the community being served. Dennis Lucey provided historical background on the origins and development of Toy Sunday. Barbara Zientek Perez underscored the role of Toy Sunday in many families' catechesis with their children. Kate Tromble was also an active discussant as were many members of the PPC and Paula McCabe, all raising good searching questions and many compelling points both in favor of keeping Toy Sunday as well as ending it, ranging from logistics to fundamental points about the nature of good charity. The process of the decision was also questioned but Fr. Gillespie clarified that there was no decision, that this was an agenda item at the PPC meeting precisely so that he could get feedback from the PPC on the best way forward. The PPC recommended that for this year Toy Sunday proceed, especially given that we were only one week before Thanksgiving, and that in the ensuing year, all of the stakeholders would engage to develop a common position in time for next Advent. At this point, Dennis, Barbara, Beth, and Kate bid adieu.

PPC PROMOTION/COMMUNICATION

Cecilia Boudreau discussed various issues:

Forms of promoting the PPC to the rest of the Parish to foster more engagement. Several ideas were put forth including a guest column in the bulletin, a group photo, video testimonies.

Council members will have the opportunity to serve dinner together for the Winter Shelter.

There is still one current vacancy on the PPC.

There is a sign-up for the various Parish committees to present their annual report to the PPC and we should encourage our various chairs to sign up.

DISCERNMENT IN COMMON

Bill Kelley, S.J.; and Martina O'Shea arrived and presented the PPC with a description of the process of *Discernment in Common*, some of it overlapping with Father McDermott's presentation during the 18 October Leadership Night. This is germane given that the Jesuit Province has asked each Parish to consider it and answer two questions: Whom are we called to serve? and How are we being called to serve? Bill said that to consider *Discernment in Common*, we need to consider four questions (which he fleshed out):

- What are we trying to discern?
- How might we address it?
- What would it require of us?
- Who would be involved?

A cornerstone of this process is that God has a preference for us: What is God dreaming for us as a Parish? The PPC was encouraged to consider that since this is a prayerful process, it involves dedicated time, requiring at least 15 minutes per day of personal prayer and 45 minutes at least per PPC meeting of prayer time. Cecilia said that at the December 13 meeting, the PPC would decide whether or not to embark on this process. There was general enthusiasm for embarking on this process with a note of caution here and there about the time commitment it will involve. Fr. Kelley stressed that *discernment* in this context is an Ignatian process used to determine what God wants. For the PPC to employ this process, the PPC will need to engage in training and Martina and Fr. Kelley agreed to accompany the PPC.

Chris Hannigan closed the meeting with a prayer.

Approved December 13, 2017