

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting

December 13, 2017

In attendance: Linda Arnold, PPC; Cecilia Boudreau, President PPC; Kathleen & Kevin Coogan, PPC; Reverend C. Kevin Gillespie, SJ, Pastor; Christopher Hale, PPC; Chris Hannigan, PPC; Kenny Kraft, PPC; Chris Kehoe, Director of Finance, Paul Maco, PPC; Paula McCabe, Parishioner; Martina O'Shea, Director of Ignatian Spirituality; Roger Sullivan, Ignatian Spirituality Committee Chairman, Carlos Salinas, PPC; Jim Thessin, PPC; Ellen Toups, Vice President PPC; and Kirk Willison, PPC.

Kirk Willison offered the opening prayer.

There were no comments during the parishioners' open forum.

The PPC November 2017 minutes were approved with two small edits offered by Chris Hannigan. The original motion to approve was offered by Ellen Toups. It was seconded by Chris Hannigan.

Rev. Kevin Gillespie, SJ delivered the Pastor's Report. He noted he had six items to detail:

1. The parish's facilities director will resign on January 31, 2018, in order to build a small business. There will be a search process for a successor.
2. The parish's youth minister position remains open after a failed attempt to hire Sarah Seligmann's successor, who resigned in October. Our organist position also remains vacant. The process continues.
3. The Holy Rood Cemetery process is "moving along." It hopefully will come before the Georgetown University Board of Trustees in February 2018. For the University, it's a legal issue. For the larger community, it's a financial issue.
4. With three priests, it's become too difficult to maintain the Daily Mass schedule. After a five week discernment process, the new daily Mass schedule from December 26 until Easter Sunday will be as follows: Monday and Tuesday, 7:00 AM and 5:30 PM Masses, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8:00 AM and 5:30 PM Masses, Saturday, 8:00 AM Mass.
5. The progress with the bicentennial celebrations continue. In January, there will be more information on the history of the school. Gillespie believes that Holy Trinity School might be the oldest Catholic elementary school in the United States, which would be a prominent part of the bicentennial celebration. Multiple groups are involved. The Liturgy Committee is considering making a original composition for the October 2017 celebration. Any other ideas are welcomed.
6. Toy Sunday was an astounding success. The parish filled a full U-Haul. The receiving parish is a Franciscan parish in Northeast Washington. The future of Toy Sunday will be talked about in a discernment process.

Cecilia Boudreau presented the President's report. She noted the upcoming schedule for committee reports and the decision to present committee updates via email to save time in the meeting. Because of a personal scheduling conflict, she asked that we reconsider moving the June meeting. The President sought additional volunteers for the winter homeless shelter on December 29.

The chairman of the Finance Council John Kneuer open the financial presentation. He noted that the financial state of the parish is strong: "we are tremendously blessed with an abundance that is rare in parish life." That being said, individual giving rates are off by single digit percentage points. He noted that

seems likely connected with the capital campaign that began in the past decade. He also noted that there is a data deficit in soliciting and receiving parish contributions. But these things are being worked on.

Chris Kehoe—the parish’s director of finance—then presented the 2017 annual report. The details of this report are available on the website. One thing Mr. Kehoe noted that wasn’t emphasized in the report is that his biggest concern is the continually narrow margin between revenue and expenditures. He would like to be able to invest more money into the parish’s rain-day reserve.

A 27-minute conversation followed the report that covered a plethora of topics: including the development of long-term revenue sources, blending the outreach to small-dollar contributors with large-dollar contributors, morality assessments of the parish investment portfolio, and overcoming large database deficits.

Roger Sullivan—the chairman of the Ignatian Spirituality Committee—opened their committee’s report. In their report, Kathleen Coogan shared the committee’s mission statement. Roger and Kathleen then did an overview of the parish’s Ignatian spirituality programs, who are available for rank-and-file parishioners in group and individual settings and for parish leaders in group settings. Roger detailed the experiences of recent parishioners after the Nineteenth Annotation who wanted to go deeper after their retreat experience. In response, they created two Fifth Week meetings to deepen the graces received from the original retreat.

For the past two months, the council has learned about *discernment in common* as a means for coming together in prayer to make a group decision. The council had a 23-minute conversation about whether this is something that they want to continue doing as a council. Despite some reservations about time commitment and a clarity surrounding final goals, it was the unanimous belief of the council that we should go forward in pursuing an intentional practice of communal discernment. The strong consensus was such an intentional practice could help the council grow in interior freedom and be better stewards of our mission in assisting the pastor in his governance and ministry.

It was agreed that this communal exercise would be in the context of previously scheduled parish council meetings.

Ellen Toups asked whether the written reports were a better way of communicating committee updates. It was agreed that would be the process going forward.

Linda Arnold closed the meeting in prayer.

Approved January 31, 2018