

IJP-2014-04-29 Pastoral Council Meeting

May 2014

Opening Prayer - Fr. Szolack

Roll Call

In Attendance: Dcn. Nick Danze, Jeff Heck, Barry Hills, Frank Dunleavy, John Philban, Steve Graham, Patti Graham, Fr. Szolack.

Guest Presentation – (Denise Dietrich)

PROPOSAL: Reconstruct the Welcoming Committee.

Denise will schedule volunteers to visit new parishioners. Evangelize to the "movers" into our area. Visit includes: Give Ministry Pamphlet (Book Club, SFSG, etc) Is there anything we can do for you? (enroll kids in Religious Ed or School, Marriage blessed, house blessed etc.)

- Past welcoming committee = Brian Fleming & Bob Law.
- TOOLS: Camden Diocese Website - Evangelization Tools - 7 pillars of a great parish
- GROUPS INTERESTED: Alliance of 2 Harts; Mother's Group (Ann Fleming); Legion of Mary (Kathy Lawrence)

- INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED: Janet Autodore + Sharon Sandone, RCIA Graduates who are "on fire"

IDEAS: Gift Certificates (Free KOC Breakfast) - Baked Goods (Julie Heenan - pound cakes/ candy)

- PAMPHLET on MINISTRIES? - Fr. Szolack- we agreed for that company to go out and get ads for the Ministry Brochure - Fr. George Sider/Janice (secretary) - loves it - colorful, well done. It's a win-win.
- MARKETING: Get recent real estate transactions & New home sales (Pat Davino)
- OTHER: New Baby Ministry (register & list expectant babies); Elizabeth Ministry (Mary Sperling was involved), make gift bags for baptisms, etc.

Vocations Presentation: (Steve Graham presented for Jim Janco)

- Jim is passionate about this & talks about it in Kings Men meetings. Wants to coordinate these efforts:
- (1) Increase AWARENESS-Vocations Fair. Talk to parents. Vocations prayer at the 10 and 11:30 Masses. Do a 5 min website video interviews - Why do you do this? When did you consider being a priest/nun? Diocesan events = irace for vocations. Bishop Sullivan gave a great homily on vocations.
- (2) Increase PRAYER-Adoration (Jodi Illisco and Julie Heenan cover first Friday and every other Friday) First Friday is all night, every other Friday ends at 6pm.

Fr. Szolack's Comments:

- First Communion Coming up
- Triduum was beautiful
- Knights having line dance event
- Fr. Romano is helping out - He's an add-on (not part of staff) Living w/bishop. He feels welcome here.
- Dcn. Bob's wife Judy just had a heart valve put in.

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds (Barry Hills)

SMC Church Roof - leaks in 4 spots. Abe Brooks on roof w/crew. Couldnt find it. - New roof system = 190K. (add new wire, new lights, beams, etc = 350K) revolving fund?

How do we address the electric - keep it in the roof or bring it to the building?

Steve Kilpatrick, Artist who did SJV is to look at SMC, built in 1978 - no windows, dark.

Ideas: solid doors to glass doors, carpet to tile, add statuary (Infant Jesus) St. Mary and Our lady of Guadalupe.

Deacon Nick (in parish for 40 yrs)- We've had problems with leaky roof for years. Something has to be started. We have to have a (5 year) vision.

We just had an increased giving campaign - maybe later we'll do a capital campaign. Tell people what's happening - they see good faith.

SMC Rectory - took out 12 trees.

SMC School Parking Lot will be repaired this week (2 pot holes)

SJV Immediate needs are with insulation - \$1K is a GO.

SJV - Concerned about rectory.

ALL - We went thru growing pains w/merger, now we can plan and do things. Prior to this, financially we took a conservative position. Now we can spend \$\$, make improvements, & get things done.

Spirituality (Patti Graham)

- 4/30 Gathering of all SFSG - to talk about experience and how many interested in continuing on.
- 5/18 John Paul II Movie w/Polish food. 1pm-end before 4pm Mass - special events committee to assist?
- 40 hours - regrouping on this in the Fall
- Corpus Christi (generate community interest) - long flat-bed truck - lots of people come out wondering what Catholics are doing.

Ministries (Steve Graham)

- Crosses - Rich MacDonald
- Facebook theinfantjesusparishkingsmen

School (Deacon Nick)

- EVENTS: 4/30 = Race for education (may be inside due to weather)
- ENROLLMENT: We are growing, healthy and vibrant: at budget level = 480 students. We will be 500+ on K-8 (max in school 30/class 610) Pre-k enrollment is 76 (20 more than last year) Subsidy this year is the same as last year. The fundraising for the school mandated to go directly to budget.
- INITIATIVES (5 yr plan): (a) a better PA system and screen in the gym. (b) Security initiative is strong and well received. Part 1 is done. People saw it, raised \$\$, children are secure. Part 2 = add cameras w/monitor station in main office and other areas in school w/no camera. Includes other mandates by Prosecutors Office & Police Dept. including reflective names of teachers on doors/windows (c) add classroom "mod-space" to the school (4 classrooms and a bathroom minimum + possibly music, art, & 2 pre-k rooms).

Youth Ministry (N/A)

Special Events (N/A)

Book Club (N/A)

Finance Committee (Jeff Heck)

- House of Charity - Collected: 103K = 78% of goal
- Met Budget for Easter collection

Old Business/New Business

- none

Closing Prayer (Fr. Szolack)

Agenda – August, 2104 Meeting

Fr. Chris Mann

- Formal introduction

Ministry Directory

- Need a plan to get them out to the parishioners
- What is the status of the Welcome Committee ministry

Youth Minister

- Need to recruit a new Youth Ministry Leader
- Need a plan to advertise the position and effectively interview candidates

Evangelization/Vocations

- What is the plan
- How do we reach out
- What are we doing right/wrong?
- Jim Janco suggests a survey of those who are registered with the parish but whom we don't think have been active at mass for at least a year.
- Fall Festival can be an opportunity
- Want to start alternate Friday to extend vocations until 9 pm. Kings Men to confirm the men would be willing to man. The extra three hours would be dedicated to vocations.

Ministry Plan

- Where are the holes? Who are we not effectively serving/offering services?
- Surveys? Focus groups?

3 REASONS PEOPLE LEAVE CHURCH

By Father Michael White is the Pastor of Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland.

Submitted by Jim Janco

- This week I had a great opportunity to spend the day with pastoral leaders in the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey (they're a great group, by the way). One question that a number of people asked me in a variety of ways was, "*Why are people leaving Church?*" That's a very good question and part of the answer is found in conditions and circumstances beyond our control like changes in our culture, the frenetic pace of modern life and communication, the radical secularization of society, the list could probably go on and on. That's part of the answer, but only part. And I think for way too long, we who are in churchworld have given ourselves permission to do nothing and proceed with business as usual, because its not our fault and there is nothing we can do about it anyway. Right? Wrong.
- There *are* things that you do or do not do as a parish leader that attract and keep people or send people away. Here's my take on the top three.
- **1. The message of your church is irrelevant**
- The number one comment I hear from people who have stopped going to the Catholic Church is something along the lines, "*its boring,*" "*there's nothing there for me,*" "*I just felt like I wasn't being fed.*" Those are all variations of the same comment: you don't have a message or the message you have is irrelevant.
- **2. Self-righteous parishioners**
- The second biggest reason people stay away from church or try it and give it up is the self-righteous attitudes of many people in churchworld. Church breeds self-righteousness, which in turn is judgmental of unchurch people as well as new comers. This in turn kills any sense of a welcoming community. People are hard-wired to want community and they just can't find it in many churches.
- **3. Inaccessibility**
- Lots of times people just can't see themselves growing and getting to know God in many churches. There's no comprehensible discipleship path, no plan for the growth and development of members. They find themselves stuck as religious consumers, and they eventually consume enough and move on to consume other things that are frankly more interesting to them (think sports).
- Church attendance is dropping everywhere, even in growing parts of the country, in every denomination. You are not alone, we're all feeling it. But this not a circumstance where there's nothing you can do.