

Collaborative Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes: October 9, 2018; 7:00 pm

In attendance: Erica Johnson, Mary Farren, Bill Koffel, Margaret Royslance, Mike Keohane, Brian Romer Niemiec, Yasmine Dalton, Anne Marie David, Ann Wilcox, Kristina Preman, Kate Neal, Keirnan Klosek, Colin Foley, Cathy Carver.

Pastoral Plan:

This past June the original pastoral plan (2015- 2018) concluded. The original/ first plan was a 5-page document. This year we will be focused on writing/ updating the plan for our collaborative. One goal is to present the plan in a single page (front/back) format....short and to the point. This new plan will take us through June of 2022.

A writing team will be put in place and charged with writing the new plan. Ideally, the team will consist of 5 parishioners from the council and 5 staff members. Content will be guided by various meetings to review/discuss the current plan and the current state of the collaborative.

- Staff participated in a day of reflection/discussion on the plan guided by the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI).
- Council broke into two small groups to discuss the “Purpose” and “Value” sections of the current plan.
- Next council meeting will focus on the “Vision” and “Goals” – using the results of the disciple maker questionnaire.

Council broke into small groups and discussed the current plan with regard to Purpose and Values at 7:23 and reconvened at 7:50. The **Purpose** is written to state our mission. **Values** are a constant...what the community holds to be important...the beliefs that we share.

Feedback from Discussion:

Group A:

- Noted redundancy
- Current plan has an emphasis on the individual rather than a communal approach...not a lot of “we” language.
- Needs to be written from the perspective of ...as a collaborative, what do we need...otherwise it is more like a Catholic “how-to” guide.
- Change the writing to the present tense.

Group B:

- Use the word mission in place of purpose (*The mission of the collaborative...*). It speaks to the active.
- We should define our Vision (the concrete picture) prior to fine tuning the purpose and values even though it is presented after them...
- message should be concrete and actionable.

General Discussion:

- Discussion centered around the needs expressed by several that there should be some language in the vision of the new plan for our collaborative to be a model of healing in the current climate of the church.
- Goal: rough draft to be completed by the winter allowing time to check in with individual ministries to see how they align with the pastoral plan.

Abuse Crisis Update

Parish response to the crisis:

- Friday afternoon prayer service

- 3 Listening Session: people gathered and in this setting they expressed
 - anger
 - calls for structural reform
 - feelings of helplessness...in the 2002 crisis concrete action was taken e.g., CORI, Protecting God's Children....now there is a sense of helplessness at the parish level. There is a lack of trust in the hierarchy. More difficult even though it is less local.

Discussion Surrounding the issue:

- How have Catholics changed since 2002: Most Catholics used to trust their Bishops.
- Needs expressed to include this in our pastoral plan
 - 0 - tolerance
 - We all have a responsibility to act
 - We want it to be a safe community
 - We have to directly focus on it...we can no longer dance around the issues.
 - We are the body of Christ – focus on that.
 - Peoples voices do matter
 - The more we speak of it, the more the culture will change
 - The goal is not to fix what we have, but to envision what it could be.
- With regard to the Collaborative's response
 - Council sees that collaborative is adequately addressing the issues.
 - Applauded the Lay Leadership – Pastoral Associates for the letter that they penned.

Financial Reports/ Asks amid the resent abuse crisis:

There has been no real backlash on the timing of these campaigns.

Giving at SH is static to slightly elevated. Small decrease seen at Our Lady's (despite greater reduction in attendance).

Questions about how the new Federal Tax Policy will effect donations.

To be determined.

Next Meeting: Monday November 5th at 7:00 pm – at Sacred Heart.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Arpino