

St. Francis of Assisi Pastoral Council Meeting

Assisi Room of the Rectory

June 22, 2018

Members in attendance: Fr. John Dillon, Alicia Church, Debra Crone, Arleen Hall, Anton Handono, Mark Harang, Chris King, Bernie McGuire, Alec Niedermaier, Ann Pierre and Travis Tomon.

Others in attendance: Janet Pate, Director of Music Ministry, and Melissa Egan, Communications Coordinator.

The meeting convened at 6 pm in the Rectory's Assisi Room. Debra Crone made a motion to accept the May 2018 minutes; Chris King seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Fr. John introduced Janet Pate, the new director of the Music Ministry, to the council. He also read aloud a Flocknote that he had written on former Washington DC Archbishop Theodore McCarrick stepping down from active priestly duty, given an allegation that he had sexually abused an altar boy while a priest in New York more than 50 years ago. Several council members asked Fr. John questions about the allegations, such as what a "credible and substantiated report" is. Fr. John also explained that, while Cardinal McCarrick has requested a canonical trial, he could lose his status as both a bishop and priest.

Under regular business, member Chris King reviewed high-level findings that Deborah McDonald with the Archdiocese of Washington has compiled, based on results of the Indicators of Vitality Survey. Among the parish's key strengths are:

- Welcoming and vibrant parish
- Sense of diversity and inclusion
- Caring clergy, strong staff
- Good quality music, although there is opportunity for growth
- Small sharing groups
- Noticeable improvement in communications

Opportunities for growth:

- Children's Liturgy and teaching Masses
- Parking issues and traffic flow
- Greater diversity
- Increased opportunity for young adult engagement
- Ministry recruitment and volunteer opportunities
- Increased financial donations

Chris King reported that Deborah McDonald would plan to present the more detailed survey results to the council at its September meeting and will help members develop a plan to address the findings.

Member Alicia Church also reported briefly on the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. She mentioned the advisory body had discussed its:

- 2018-19 budget
- Architectural Self-Evaluation Working Group
- Memo on the security of parishes. This includes a Parish Security Committee that will be formed and include pastors, law enforcement personnel, security staff and archdiocesan officials as its members.

Church also discussed *Sharing in the Joy of Love in Marriage and Family: A Pastoral Plan to Implement Amoris Laetitia*, which is ripe to be promoted among youth. She said youth may be involved with writing brochures or creating YouTube videos to promote the Pastoral Plan.

The council also discussed *Holiness Is*, a 30-day prayer journal that dovetails with *Gaudete et Exultate*.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm, after which the council members and parish staff went upstairs to have dinner together and fellowship.