

Combined Pastoral Council meeting: 9/19/2019

Everyone introduced themselves to the group. Opening prayer was Stewards of the Spirit.

Father Gallagher spoke to the group. Our grouping is the largest in the Diocese. There are over 4,800 parishioners who come to church weekly. He explained that the most difficult group to unite, regarding our combined grouping, is Finance Council. The three combined Finance Councils will be meeting on 9/26/2019. Father Gallagher asked many groupings what they are doing/planning to do for the combining process.

Priest Grouping (meets bi-weekly at St. Gregory's

They hired Youth Director and a Business manager for St. Gregory/Holy Redeemer.

Listening sessions at St. Gregory will be starting in October/November

Mass at Passavant Retirement Center on the first Thursday of the month.

Confirmation meeting-trying to get only two Confirmations for the three churches

St. Mathias-will be removing the stain glass windows next week. There is a plan for St. Mathias parishioners to walk through one last time. The tabernacle from St. Mathias is now at St. Gregory's Church. The cross will be brought to St. Gregory's school. A mass and simple reception is being planned.

Linda Ritzert is our liaison with the Diocese.

A day of reflection with Dynamic Catholic is being planned for our parish mission in March. All three parishes will be invited.

A decision has been made that there will be no project undertaking until we become one parish in order to keep our debt down.

Music Ministry Grouping:

They have agreed on meeting regularly

Working on a decision if we will be using a common hymnal

Working on sharing choirs

Working on a decision if worship aids will be used during special seasons of the liturgical year and exploring the possibility of a common worship aide for all three parishes.

Working on putting on a choral arrangement during lent/advent.

Youth Program:

Kick-off for all three churches was on Wednesday 9/18/2019

The groups meet separately each week. St. Gregory's meets on Wednesday night. Holy Redeemer and St. Ferdinand's meet on Sunday night.

Diego will be working with all three groups

They will be having some of their events together as one group.

Pastoral Associates:

The Dynamic Catholic is our parish mission and will take place in March. All information is being shared.

Bible studies will be coordinated as they are extremely popular

ROLO (Remember Our Loved Ones) is held every other Wednesday at St. Gregory's.

Sister Pat visits the nursing homes in all three parishes.

Finance Council:

Every parish needs to prepare a budget and a budget for every department.

Working on unifying things like paper products, utilities, etc.

Pastoral Council will meet with Finance Council several times a year. Communication between finance councils and Pastoral Councils is very important.

Will be encouraging parishioners to participate in Faith Direct.

Will be creating an increased offertory collection program.

Maintenance:

They are sharing personnel and equipment as much as possible/feasible

Bulletins:

Working on using one bulletin company combined

Working on deciding if we should do one bulletin or separate

Our website is combined

Protecting God's Children:

Will merge databases when we become one parish

Receptionists:

Working on combining Baptismal prep programs

Working on combining the new funeral planning book

Working on scheduling Baptisms and weddings as a combined parish

Schools

Priests coordinated times to teach classrooms during religion classes (4 priests and the deacon)

Fr. Torquato made a schedule for 2 visits per month. Teachers will be contacted about possible topics.

Father Gallagher contacted our Vicar regarding school consolidations. The northwest area will not begin discussions for at least two years.

The priests are assembling a list of possible Confirmation dates to be submitted to the diocese.

Decisions that were made during the meeting:

We will meet as a combined Pastoral Council three times a year and eliminate the individual meeting when we meet as a combined group

We established a core group (two people from each church) to help create meetings and facilitate communication with the individual groups

Individual Pastoral councils are to come up with a common Mission Statement. St Ferdinand Pastoral Council will send out a draft of what we came up with for a Mission Statement

The Parish Survey will be reviewed by all individual Pastoral Councils and will be due in November

Father Gallagher requested that we list all fundraisers we have at each church from the individual ministries

Father will contact diocese to ask about diocesan pastoral plan.

Next combined meeting is November 21, 2019

Meeting adjourned with a prayer-Hail Mary

Minutes submitted by Lorrie and Sherry combined