

Parish Council Minutes - 3/21/19

In Attendance: Father Hahn, Eric Rinehart, David Glass, Tony Glandon, Deacon Hauser, Lynn Anderson, Sister Zephрина, Alicia Thompson, Aaron Brown

Excused: Robin Flannagan

Chris Hiles shares information about a survey for our parish. Survey based off four pillars of the catechism. Creed, Prayer, Sacraments, Morality.

- Survey asks for feedback on H.E.L.P. - Hold, Express, Live and Pray
- Chris passed out samples of the surveys.
- Name, Age and Mass attended is the information requested.
- Upon opening, the survey asks for input on how someone would want information about their faith.
- How would you like to hold onto your faith?
- How would you want to celebrate the Christian Mysteries
- How would you like to engage in these topics in a study?
- The next series of questions dealing with your preference of setting, media, time of day, what day, and depth of study.
- Under each section, there are bullet points and parishioners are asked to rate, on a scale of 0-5 how "likely" you will or will not.
- Survey will be turned into a google form and will be able to go in and fill out online to obtain immediate feedback.

During the time we were filling out the survey, there was a discussion regarding a program that will assist in building the evangelization within our own parish. It was mentioned that before we can begin to evangelize outside of our parish, we need to build our capacity within our parish.

The plan is to have parishioners fill out the survey during or after Mass. It was suggested the Priest speak to the survey after the homily and allow time during Mass instead of filling out the survey after Mass.

Chris discussed the plan to make the survey more aesthetically pleasing and asks for suggestions on a layout. It was suggested that you can eliminate some of the "literature" and the priest can share the information when giving instructions. Another suggestion would be to eliminate the "tri fold" and make it a "one fold" document.

By asking what parishioners are interested in, we can provide the informational sessions that people want so they are more willing and excited to attend. An additional question may be added to see if the person filling out the survey would be willing to host or lead a session.

It was noted that content, font and readability are good. The question is how to condense and keep a nut and bolt approach.

Consistency with bullets, lines, numbers, etc...

Father Hahn asked that we move down the agenda in order for Chris Hiles to participate.

Appalachian Culture - Hillbilly Elegy

- Appalachian Culture sometimes struggles with Commitment, will not commit. Will say things such as "I will be there, unless something happens."
- Very unstructured free time. Outside of their job, unless something is demanding of time, our culture does not lend itself to structure outside of work. Sometimes schedules are "wishy washy". Time management is something that is not a strength.

Positives of the Culture:

- David discussed being in Perry County and speaking to the director of Job and Family Services. The director shared there is a lot of collaboration among the different organizations that are available to provide help and assistance to families. Much less "turf war" and people are willing to come together. Sense of family is very strong.
- Loyalty to family is very strong. Loyalty period is strong.
- Once we, as a Parish, are able to tap into the loyalty to evangelize the Catholic Church, that will allow us to bring more to our faith/parish. Getting more folks into our church and curious about our faith. Some of our smaller communities (Oak Hill, Jackson, other smaller communities have that sense of commitment - we need to identify with this type of community within our parish)
- The goal of community system is a common commitment, a shared goal where people will trust you and will want to be a part. In our case it is found within our mission statement, Adoration and Care for the Poor. Having a presence, being genuine, being real. You can't fake it.
- Alicia shared "When you look at your community, they are your Monstrance! You love them, they are who you love."
- A sense of justice and fairness is very strong within the Appalachian Community.
- There is a sense of comfortability speaking about faith, religion, and that exists over many denominations.

- Eric shared that many homes have various images and will talk about “being saved” and will then quickly say “but I don’t go to church”. Our way of bringing people into our Church and/or our Parish is much more difficult and timely.
- We tend to get into a debate about our faith, we can complicate, we may need to consider keeping it simple, don’t be defensive.
- Appalachia is leary of organized religion.
- Kids, because of the breakdown of the family. Kids want to belong to something, that is also why they are committed to their family even when they may fall short or commit crimes, are criminals, kids will remain loyal to their families and family members.
- Certain families and groups in our community create a bond related to some type of crime or negative activity. It was said that our Mass is structured, it is our high worship and they may feel they are not involved or able to commit, understand.
- Taking advantage of the Holy Moments and not winning the war or the battle in a short period of time.
- Lynn shared that Father Franks was known for being visible and a part of the community being at ball games and various events and talking to people which brings about awareness.
- Eric brought up that people elsewhere see and know the presence of the sisters and their work in the community.
- Lynn shared that reading a book about Lou Holtz and sharing information about prayer and various mentions of God and how in most schools around here and no one worries.
- Being that people are suspicious and there are questions it can be a positive thing. When you are different, it does build you up and make you stronger.
- Father Hahn then read an email about that was shared with him from one of our parishioners that is in the home care field on how to speak the language of appalachian. To focus on the traumas and how Christ heals this.

Email that Father Hahn shared:

“The Door is sharing of Christ’s love, forgiveness, and powerful healing from those past and present traumas that continue to torment and keep us separated from the salvation. Sharing that He offers this healing through the cross, repentance, baptism and Eucharist.”

Lynn discussed information about Steubenville, people have discussed wanting to go and attend a conference. She also shared about the possibility of our parish offering small tokens of appreciation to schools and faculty. It has been done by other churches and it has an impact.

New Business:

- Parish Council Nominations, Selection - The drawing will be June 9th at the Pentecost Mass.
- Nominations due May 26th, will open on May 12th.
- Parish Picnic will be either June 29th or June 30th.