

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2017

6:30p.m.

St. Helen's Parish Hall

Members Present: Father Joe Giroux, Father Scott Belina, Malcolm Miner, Mary Haas, Greg Paye, Judy Pelkey, Jeff Scharf, Jennifer Champagne, Linda Sprague, Cathy Lane-Johnson

Members Excused: Aimee Leroy, Pam Leduc

Members Absent: Deacon Bryan Bashaw

Others Present: Andrew Duso, Kevin and Mary Hart, Bill and Sue Perkins, Claire Russell, Marie-Claire D'Arcy

1. **Opening Prayer:** Opening prayer was led by Father Joe.

2. **Review/Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the June 26, 2017 meeting were reviewed and amended. The location for the September meeting was NOT St. Joseph's but St. Helen's Parish Hall in Chasm Falls. Discussion at the June meeting suggested the fall meeting be held in Chasm Falls before inclement weather set in. A motion was carried to accept the amended minutes by Greg Paye and seconded by Malcolm Miner. All were in favor to approve the amended minutes.

3. **Old Business:**

A. Christian Formation: *A Family of Faith*: Father Joe shared there was a team of 14 volunteers in place to assist in various areas of the program- from childcare and refreshments to set up, presenters and technology assistants. At the first parent session on Sunday, September 10th there were 35 families registered which included 70 children, 4 grandparents, and 3 adults who were interested in the program to deepen their faith and/or to help out. Nine of the children were First Penance/Communion candidates and 23 Confirmation candidates. Andrew Duso stated there continues to be people registering almost on a daily basis. The program has been very well received by those who are participating in it. Father Joe asked to forward any questions people may have regarding the program to him.

B. Holy Harvest Festival- September 24th is the date for the Festival. Raffle tickets are coming in steadily. All families enrolled in *A Family of Faith* have received a free ticket for one adult and all children in the family to attend the event. Bundt cakes are still needed for the Festival.

4. **New Business:**

A. Deacon Ordination (Saturday, October 7): Details of the Ordination Mass schedule will be printed in the bulletin for parishioners interested in attending the event. Recognition was given to Brent Charland and Nicholas Haas for their hard work and dedication. St. Andre's will benefit immensely from the fruits of their labor. The parish has ordered new vestments which will be needed for the two new deacons. To celebrate, the Parish will honor Brent and Nick at the 11:00 Mass on October 8th with a reception to follow at the Parish Center. Jennifer Champagne and Judy Pelkey will be in charge of arrangements.

B. Christmas Mass Schedule: This year Christmas falls on a Monday which poses a little scheduling creativity to ensure staff has ample time to complete decorations for the holiday. Options were discussed and the following Mass schedule was decided on for that weekend and holiday:

Saturday Anticipated Mass (12/23)	4:00 PM @ St. Joseph's
Sunday Mass (12/24)	9:30 AM @ St. Joseph's
Christmas Eve Masses (12/24)	4:00 PM @ St. Joseph's 4:00 PM @ Notre Dame 7:00 PM @ St. Helen's 10:00 PM @ Notre Dame
Christmas Day Mass (12/25)	9:30 AM @ St. John Bosco

C. Pastoral Council Youth Member: Madonna Champagne's graduation from high school has created a vacancy on the Pastoral Council. A bulletin notice will canvas high school students at least 16 years of age who may be interested in the position. Father Joe will appoint a member to fill this vacancy from those interested candidates.

5. Proposed Pastoral Plan:

A. Additional parishioner input? Father Joe was contacted by Father Kevin O'Brien this afternoon regarding a petition that was circulated among St. John Bosco parishioners who will not support the Pastoral Plan as it was submitted to the Bishop in June. On reviewing the petition that was emailed and faxed to Father Joe from Father O'Brien, members of the Council questioned how many of those who signed it were actually active parishioners of St. Andre's Parish.

B. Changes? A lengthy discussion followed regarding the advantages residents of the St. John Bosco area would have with the re-purposed use of St. John Bosco. With the expansion of St. Vincent de Paul's and Catholic Charities there, as well as exploring new offerings such as a soup kitchen, a grief support group and the Gabriel Project which assists mothers in crisis pregnancies, the plan would not only assist individuals to meet their physical and emotional needs but may also encourage them to let us help with their spiritual needs. Residents may not fully understand the programs that would be available and the impact the plan could have on their lives.

C. Re-submission to the Bishop: The Council decided to resubmit the plan as is. A motion was made by Greg Paye to vote on the Proposed Pastoral Plan and seconded by Cathy Lane-Johnson. The vote was unanimous: 10 voted in favor of the plan, 0 opposed the plan. The motion carried.

D. Other: Kevin Hart addressed the Pastoral Council on maintenance issues at St. Helen's. The stain glass windows in the church are in dire need of repair. Kevin also stated the roof on the Parish Center is leaking. Father Joe is aware of the issues but with lack of finances and other problems at the Parishes other 16 buildings, priorities will need to be set up to address concerns.

6. **Next meeting:** Monday, November 20, 2017, at St. Joseph's in the "Cry Room" at 6:30 PM.

7. **Closing Prayer:** Closing prayer was led by Father Joe.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Pelkey, Acting Secretary