

Minutes
Pastoral Council Meeting
November 21, 2019, Koska Hall

Present: Father Steve Brice, Paul Peterson, John Eckendorf, Eric Leary, Bob Ostrowski, May Ann Krems, Ginny Williams, Bill Fehrenbach, Deacon Rick Letto, Justine Brilowski, Vern Schroth, Joanna Slattery, Casey Davis, Kevin Czerwinski, Kathy Budelier and Michelle Miller (Sacred Worship), Susan Zach (secretary)

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair, Paul Peterson.
Prayer led by Father Steve.
- II. Minutes of October 17 meeting approved as written
- III. Discussion of Christifideles Laici, Chapter 2
The bishop is asking parishes in our diocese to read this document, written in 1987, which lays out and reinforces the role of the laity in the life of the Church. It was stated that bishops in the US are currently looking to the laity for their help and support in renewing the life of the Church after the demoralizing revelations of priest abuse.
- IV. Sacred Worship Committee – report to the Parish Council (Michelle Miller and Kathy Budelier)

Review of Mission: provide worship opportunities where all are welcome and welcomed; where each person feels supported and encouraged to meet Jesus in a real and person way; where we are strengthened to go forth to share our talents and resources with others within and beyond our parish.

Despite fluctuation in committee membership, the Sacred Worship Committee is:

- Tapping into people's talents, providing the support they need
- Revising the training guides in all ministries
- Updating the worship aid to provide easy access to liturgy

Teams within Sacred Worship have held planning seasons, re. Advent; a Lenten Team will meet this coming weekend (first of three meetings)

Discussion regarding the decline in attendance at Mass in last 5 years ensued. There are multiple factors, but one could be the length of Mass.

Masses at Holy Spirit often last one hour and ten minutes; some parishioners expect Mass to end in one hour. Father Steve asked, where do we want to go as a parish? Do we watch the clock, or should liturgy be so engaging that time is not of the essence? What is each person's compelling reason to be at Mass?

Pacing of the Mass - slowness of Father's prayer was mentioned. Each priest has a different style, and Father's prayer and words are very intentional.

How do we want the next generation to think about the length of Mass?

Transparency – it is possible to discuss length of Mass in the worship aid or at Mass. Father could say that it's difficult to have each Mass end at an exact time but that he more or less aims for one hour. Rather than watching our clocks, let's be intentional and be present at Mass, and let ourselves be in the presence of God and our community.

In the end, Father needs to be himself...Father Steve can be open and discuss this, let the people know that he doesn't always watch the clock. If Mass takes ten minutes longer, so be it...

Other parishes? Same problem to varying degrees.

Future discussion:

- New worship space to allow time for talking or quiet?
- Small group - St. Bron's follows evangelization program called Alpha. Small group format to bring others in.
- look into childcare on Sunday 10:00 am Mass (with Family Life)

V. Update on Building Project

Sale of Newman Center - UWSP had given a written offer to purchase at \$ 400,000, and Holy Spirit countered at \$ 522,000. UWSP then countered with \$450,000, and Holy Spirit will need to respond to this latest offer by Nov. 22.

Zoning for Newman Center is U1 for University, but Woodlands would be campus serving.

Realtor has said that Woodland Church will make an offer soon. Zoning for Newman Center is U1 for University, but Woodlands would be OK because it would be "campus-serving."

Father Steve would rather have UWSP purchase the Newman Center.

Kathy – reported that at Finance Council there was a discussion that Catholic students have been targeted by Woodlands to join their parish. How would former Newman Parish members react if the Center is sold to Woodlands?

Funds needed going forward for building project (Vern and Kevin)

Kevin: In summer 2019 realized the disparity between money coming in and money going out. Ellis is finishing construction sooner than planned, and building will be ready in February 2020. When final bills come due, we will go into the red, whether or not we sell the Newman Center. Of course, if the Newman Center is sold, we will have less debt. Payment to Ellis this month came in under the estimate.

Vern: Diocese will give us a loan of 20% of project total. Holy Spirit can borrow \$ 799,000, taken in three draws, only as we need the money, in order to avoid unnecessary interest

After all pledges are in, we will still have 254,000 of loan to pay off over 20 years.

Will we have discipline in our spending so as to pay off loan in a timely way? (Eric)

Interest rate will be .75 above the Treasury rate, a variable rate.

Interest rates are very low now and no doubt over time will go up (John).

Ask parishioners accelerate their pledge payments to help avoid interest.

Parishioners need to be informed about the budget and plans for the renovation of the old church, in addition to the new gathering space (Mary Ann). Father will bring it up at Masses.

Transition Phase 1 to Phase 2 - will have to wait until August 2021 when more of the pledges have come in to renovate the old church. \$ 623,929 is the cost of Phase 2
Professional electricians will take a look at the extent of upgrade to wiring needed.
3 boilers for our new building will most likely bring the heat also into the old church.

Expressions of gratitude to the Building and Finance Committees for all their work (Deacon Rick and Mary Ann).

Next meeting: Tuesday December 18, 6 pm

For next meeting read Chapter 3 of Christifideles Laici
The Family Life Committee will come to give us an update on their activities.

Adjourn: 8:00 pm