

Pastoral Council Meeting May 2, 2016  
Notes

**Present:** Members: Pat Mellen, David Neu, Betty Chrestenson, Rita O'Neil, Cathy Burleson, Joan Butler, Elizabeth Licitra, Marilyn Rodriguez, and Ruth Licitra.  
Staff: Sr. Mary Jo Quinn, Deacon Ron Butler, Judy Cooney, and Fr. Ed Hislop.

**Note:** The April 4, 2016 meeting of the Pastoral Council was postponed until May 2, 2016.

**1. Gathering Prayer:** The Gathering Prayer was led by Fr. Ed with Rita, Joan, and Betty.

**2. Additions to the Agenda:** There was no discussion of possible additions to the agenda.

**3. Missoula Interfaith Collaborative (MIC):** Sr. Mary Jo continued the discussion begun in March regarding the merging of Family Promise of Missoula and the Missoula Faith Collaborative. Casey Dunning of MIC was to speak but had a prior commitment. Joan, Ron and David, who attended the Faith in Action Summit on April 26<sup>th</sup>, offered reflections on the meeting. They reported that the focus of MIC was to resolve homelessness in a variety of ways. Whereas Family Promise focused on helping families who met a certain criteria, MIC focuses on a broader vision of homelessness including those who did not fit into the Family Promise criteria. Fr. Ed would like to continue with our Family Promise commitment and to become more visible with MIC. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, a Catholic outreach program to serve people in need in the United States through systematic change, was a primary grantor to MIC. MIC has a mentoring program available to follow up with Family Promise alums using Social Work interns working in case management.

Sr. Mary Jo reported that there would be a Fund Local drive online May 3, 2016. She encouraged giving to Family Promise and MIC.

The Special Olympics are May 18-21. Blessed Trinity will be hosting a dinner for the athletes.

Cathy reported that there would be a Climate Change meeting on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Francis Xavier. Fr. Joseph Carver, SJ is the Speaker.

**4. Reflection on the Making Disciples Workshop:** Rita introduced the reflection on the Making Disciples Workshop. Almost 150 people attended. The attendees were enthusiastic about the RCIA program. Bishop Thomas was present throughout the presentation. Betty, Ron, David, Joan, and Fr. Ed commented on the upbeat presenters, Nick and Diane, and their passion for their topic. A follow up meeting with the Blessed Trinity attendees is to be held Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup>. Some of the key points of the workshop included:

- ◆ RCIA is a whole parish activity;
- ◆ Liturgy is the primary teacher, not catechesis;
- ◆ Rites of the Church are integral to the process: they are formative;
- ◆ Catechesis leads to reflection on the Rites of the Church;
- ◆ Question: What do we do to become more interesting in order to draw more people in?

- ◆ A workshop is needed for priests, possibly on Friday morning, so that they are able to attend the workshop and be available for Vigil Mass.

There is a hospitality opportunity at the Aspens, a new housing development on Eaton Street. There will be 56 townhomes built.

**5. MaintainRenewImagine (MRI) Report:** Fr. Ed reported that the last meeting of the MRI Steering Committee was April 11<sup>th</sup>. The committee reviewed the last Full Parish gathering. The committee concluded that the next Full Parish gathering needed to be managed by the steering committee. Fr. Ed also reiterated that the work of the steering committee is done before the Full Parish gathering.

The next step in the design process will be to imagine the Worship Space. The Gathering and Office Spaces have been completed. After the Triduum, it was obvious that the lighting needs to be dealt with. The MRI committee agreed to re-engage Ken Griesemer to work with the architect, Carl Posewitz. Fr. Ed visited with Mr. Posewitz on April 29<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Posewitz agreed that the Worship Space would be the next focus and to accept input from Mr. Griesemer. Fr. Ed would like Mr. Posewitz to meet twice with the steering committee for input and dialogue before the next Full Parish gathering. Fr. Ed and Sr. Mary Jo will meet with Mr. Posewitz and bring two articles: one on the Carroll College Chapel renovation and one on the St. Mary's renovation.

The ceiling beams in the Worship Space are of concern as they draw attention to the southeast corner of the room. But, with lighting, etc. the focus could be shifted.

The theological and liturgical aspects of the font and altar were the focus of the May 1<sup>st</sup> Faith Formation. Fr. Ed would like to do a "Liturgy 101" session one night during the week focusing on the liturgy and the Worship Space. Fr. Ed said that the Worship Space itself is liturgical in the Catholic, Orthodox and Episcopalian traditions. "We are shaped and formed by the space we enter".

## **6. Parish Social Life:**

**A. Parish Picnic on the Feast of the Holy Trinity (May 21-22):** Fr. Ed and Sr. Mary Jo proposed that the Parish Picnic take place on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> after the 5pm Saturday Mass. The Feast of the Holy Trinity is our parish name day. Next year will be the tenth year since the naming of Blessed Trinity. Fr. Ed proposed a reunion of Holy Family and John XXIII parishioners at that time. **Action: The Pastoral Council agreed to plan a reunion activity.**

**B. The Tea Party:** Louise, as chairperson of the Tea Party event, submitted a written report to Sr. Mary Jo regarding the Tea Party which took place April 24<sup>th</sup>. Sr. Mary Jo read excerpts from the report to the Pastoral Council:

- ◆ 85 tickets were sold, about half went to parishioners;
- ◆ There was difficulty getting enough volunteers

Sr. Mary Jo questioned whether the money generated off of fund raising events justified the work that went into them. For example, the International Dinner is a potluck with very little overhead or work involved. It was proposed that there should be a Social

Calendar published in the Autumn. It was also proposed that the FUNd Committee be reactivated as a subcommittee of the Pastoral Council. **Action:**

- 1. The Pastoral Council agreed that Louise should be publicly appreciated for her work on the Tea Party.**
- 2. There will be further discussion of the Social Life of the Parish at a later date.**
- 3. The Council would also like a mechanism that would revisit items postponed for discussion at a later date.**

**C. Summer Events:** Summer events were not discussed at this meeting

**D. Other?:** Other events were not discussed at this meeting.

**7. Stewardship 2016: “Beacon of Hope; Promise of Mercy”:** The Finance Council has approved the budget. Betty reported that we need to get parishioners to increase their donations by 10%. Fr. Ed reported that there were more responses than usual to a stewardship drive, perhaps because there was no financial commitment. Ron asked if those who had signed up for ministry had been contacted. Fr. Ed said that there would be follow up with those who had signed up for ministry.

Fr. Ed reported that Blessed Trinity is subsidizing Spirit of Christ. There is a question of whether Spirit of Christ is a viable mission. There are 60 families registered at Spirit of Christ. Between 30 and 50 people attend Mass. Sr. Rita McGuinness will be coming from the diocese to discuss these issues with Spirit of Christ.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be held on **Monday, June 6, 2016 at 7pm.**

The Rosary will be prayed Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

**Closing Prayer:** Sr. Mary Jo led the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ruth Licitra  
May 6, 2016