

Pastoral Council Meeting June 6, 2016
Notes

Present: Members: Pat Mellen, Marilyn Rodriguez, David Neu, Ruth Licitra, Cathy Burleson, Betty Chrestenson, Joan Butler, and Rita O'Neil.

Staff: Sr. Mary Jo Quinn, Fr. Ed Hislop, Deacon Ron Butler, and Judy Cooney.

Guests: Hans Zuuring, Social Outreach Team and Casey Dunning, Director of Missoula Interfaith Collaborative.

1. Gathering Prayer: Fr. Ed led the Pastoral Council in prayer around the Blessed Trinity icon in the Worship Space.

2. Additions to the Agenda: This agenda item was postponed.

3. Missoula Interfaith Collaborative (MIC): Fr. Ed introduced Casey Dunning, Director of Missoula Interfaith Collaborative. The merger of MIC and Family Promise of Missoula has integrated Family Promise into the MIC umbrella. Casey was asked to share his vision of the social teaching of the Church and of the Gospel.

Casey said that MIC came into existence about three and a half years ago. It was formed by a group of people who addressed issues like homelessness, recidivism, and violence. They found that people working in isolation had limited impact. For example, about 30 families have no access to shelter on any given night. Different agencies realized the need for creating partnerships to resolve this issue. But, rarely do faith leaders come to the table with community leaders to resolve these issues. On the other hand, faith communities see the need to address social issues but don't know how to get involved with the community organizations. Additionally, congregations are dealing with shrinking numbers.

How does MIC work? MIC has three fundamental programs based on Catholic Campaign for Human Development community building organization principles: Building Bridges (training a core team of leaders who then conduct listening sessions to discern the passions of a congregation); Building Leaders (working within a congregation to build a core team of leaders among those working among the different groups working on different issues within a congregation. For instance, this could include working directly with those affected or working to facilitate change within the political system.). In short, MIC helps a congregation to build a program to address an issue or will help a congregation to collaborate with other congregations with the same interest.

How does a congregation get involved? One way to get involved with MIC is to be involved with the projects it sponsors (e.g., Family Promise). Further, a congregation could become involved at a deeper level by clarifying their passions and working with other groups in the community with a common passion.

Hans, David, Betty, Ron, and Sr. Mary Jo had comments and questions for Casey once he had completed his presentation. About 28 congregations work with MIC in one capacity or another. MIC has about core eight full partner congregations at this time. These congregations give about 0.75% of their congregational annual budget. The full partner congregations meet every two years to discern the focus of MIC.

Sr. Mary Jo proposed that the Social Outreach Team, represented by Hans, should meet to discern if being further involved with MIC is doable for Blessed Trinity and if so, how we would approach it. The Social

Outreach Team would then return to the Pastoral Council with a recommendation. **Action: The Pastoral Council agreed that the Social Outreach Team, lead by Hans, should convene and discern a plan of action with regards to becoming further involved with MIC and report back to the Pastoral Council.**

2. Additions to the Agenda:

- ◆ Ruth asked about a list of Pastoral Council Members to be posted on the website. Fr. Ed said that some of the pictures needed to be retaken. Only one person had sent a two to three sentence biography as requested at a previous meeting. **Action: Fr. Ed and Carol Lemieux would coordinate the pictures and biographies of Pastoral Council Members to be posted on the website. Pastoral Council Members are to send their two to three sentence biographies to Carol or Fr. Ed.**
- ◆ The Luau
- ◆ Sr. Mary Jo asked about a Summer Feast Day Potluck
- ◆ Ruth asked about the picnic with Grace
- ◆ Rita proposed a new parish Directory. **Action: Tabled until August meeting.**

4. Pipe Organ: Sr. Mary Jo reported that Blessed Trinity has been offered a pipe organ from Carroll College. Carroll is renovating its chapel and no longer wants the organ. It will cost Blessed Trinity \$3,000 to \$6,000 to disassemble, move and reassemble the pipe organ. The organ is a size that is suitable for our Worship Space. Pat asked about maintenance costs. The organ is in good repair currently. It would need to be tuned annually. Sr. Mary Jo added that having a pipe organ would allow Blessed Trinity greater musical flexibility. Fr. Ed added that having a pipe organ would not delete the piano or other instruments from use. Joan asked about people who could play it. Sr. Mary Jo said it would be an ongoing commitment by Blessed Trinity to make sure that there would be someone who could play it. **Action: When the letter comes from Carroll College asking if we would take the pipe organ, will we accept it? There was a consensus vote that Blessed Trinity would accept the pipe organ from Carroll. Once the offer has been made, Fr. Ed will announce to the parish that we will be getting a pipe organ from Carroll.**

5. Stewardship: Fr. Ed reviewed what has occurred thus far with the Stewardship appeal: Fr. Ed has preached on stewardship since the beginning of Lent; there have been two processions to the altar; and, people have signed a statement to commit to presence, service and treasure. Fr. Ed asked the council to read and comment on a proposed letter to go out to parishioners regarding stewardship commitment and looking beyond ourselves to the needs of the community. **Action: Joan will rework the final paragraph to better reflect outreach and maintenance. Rita will add her signature to the letter.**

6. Maintain/Renew/Imagine (MRI): Since the May 2nd Pastoral Council meeting, Fr. Ed and Sr. Mary Jo have met with both Carl Posewitz and the MRI Strategic Planning Team to discuss revised plans to overcome the strong presence of the overhead beams. A preliminary drawing was presented to the Council. MRI will now begin planning the next Whole Parish meeting. There will be two Whole Parish meetings during the summer: the first meeting will focus on Liturgical Principles; the second meeting will be with Carl and will focus on the plan. The Whole Parish meeting process will be discussed with the MRI team. Carl suggested to Fr. Ed that it is time to hire a contractor to get an estimate.

7. Diocesan Pastoral Council: Fr. Ed asked Carol Lemieux to be a candidate from Blessed Trinity for the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Carol has accepted the nomination. **Action: The Pastoral Council was asked**

to affirm Carol as the nominee from Blessed Trinity. Carol was affirmed as the Diocesan Pastoral Council nominee from Blessed Trinity.

8. Welcoming New Neighbors: Fr. Ed asked how we reach out to the neighborhood. He proposed that a small committee of Pastoral Council members and others in the parish go out and meet them. **Action: This item was tabled until July.**

9. Pastoral Staff Meeting: There will be a Pastoral Staff meeting for next year on June 28, 2016.

10. Faith Formation: Judy reported that Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 13 thru 17, 2016. There are 25 kids registered so far. These kids all have some connection to the Parish: grandkids, the neighborhood or thru St. Joseph School. Summer Faith Formation for Youth will include monthly videos. Some of the videos may be for a wider audience. She is in the planning stages now.

11. Spirit of Christ Gathering: Fr. Ed reminded the Pastoral Council that there would be a meeting between Spirit of Christ parishioners and Sr. Rita McGinness, SCL, Director of Chancery Services, Jim Carney, Financial Services Director, and Glenda Seipp, Stewardship Services Director, on Tuesday June 21st. This has been announced at Mass at Spirit of Christ, through a letter to Spirit of Christ parishioners, and shortly before the meeting, by a postcard to Spirit of Christ parishioners. Jim McDonald, Sr. Mary Jo, Fr. Ed and Ron will attend this meeting.

12. Maintenance Coordinator: Fr. Ed announced that David Neu is the new Maintenance Coordinator.

13. Garden of Eaton: Judy reported that the Garden of Eaton is moving along. There is a waiting list again this year. There are very few parishioners signed up as gardeners.

14. Ten Year Reunion Activity: Fr. Ed reminded the council that it had agreed to plan a 10-year reunion activity. **Action: Tabled until next meeting.**

15. Summertime Feast Day Potluck: Mary Jo said that the first summer feast day was the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29, 2016. Mass will be said at 6 pm with a potluck to follow. Rita asked who would coordinate the potluck. Mary Jo suggested that the Choir could coordinate it. **Action: Sr. Mary Jo will send out an email to the Choir asking for volunteers to coordinate the Feast Day Potluck.**

16. Luau: Sr. Mary Jo suggested that Ruth ask Joe to coordinate a meeting of all of those interested in participating in the planning of the Luau. **Action: Ruth will ask Joe to set up a meeting to discern interest in having the Luau this year.**

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be held on **Monday, July 11, 2016.**

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Licitra
June 12, 2016