

Pastoral Council Meeting December 5, 2016  
Minutes

Present: Members: Elizabeth Licitra, Cathy Burleson, Joan Butler, Pat Mellen, David Neu, Betty Chrestenson, and Ruth Licitra  
Staff: Fr. Ed Hislop, Judy Cooney, Deacon Ron Butler, Jim McDonald, and Sr. Mary Jo Quinn

**1. Gathering Prayer:** Sister Mary Jo led the Council in prayer.

**2. No Room at the Inn (NRATI) Update:** Sister Mary Jo led the discussion on the progress of NRATI thus far: NRATI will be held from December 9<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>. There have been \$4648 in advanced sales and donations and 111 tickets have been sold. There are two sandwich boards out: 1) the corner of South and Johnson, and 2) outside St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Fr. Ed reported that baskets for the raffle have been donated from various churches in Missoula. Sr. Mary Jo continued that an announcement for NRATI had appeared in the Saturday *Missoulian* in the News Briefs section. Judy suggested that parishioners should be encouraged to spread the word about this event.

**3. Reflection on Christmas:** Fr. Ed reported that Christmas Mass would be said at both Spirit of Christ Mission and Blessed Trinity at 7 pm Christmas Eve. Fr. Jack and Deacon Tom would preside in Lolo. Christmas Mass would be celebrated at 10 am December 25<sup>th</sup> at Blessed Trinity. Liturgy Sign ups are in the foyer.

**4. New Year Pasty Dinner:** A free will offering will be taken at the Pasty Dinner. **Action: David agreed to be the Pasty Dinner coordinator.** He will make sure the pasties are ordered and picked up, and create set up and clean up committees.

**5. Maintain/Renew/Imagine (MRI):** Fr Ed and Sr. Mary Jo reported to the Council that there will be a series of Listening Sessions with parishioners on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> after Saturday evening Mass and Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> after Sunday Mass. Sr. Mary Jo and Fr. Ed would be meeting with Carl Posewitz, Architect, to discuss the problems that have been identified by the MRI Strategic Planning Team and to identify other seating options. The Listening Sessions would include a tour of the church identifying some of the work that needs to be done.

**6. Neighborhood Outreach:** Betty and Judy reported on their discussion of outreach opportunities for the Blessed Trinity neighborhood. Betty and Judy led a discussion on outreach possibilities: 1) a sign on the corner of Reserve and Mount that we would maintain (**Betty will identify the City Council member to contact about this**), 2) identify grants that might be available (perhaps invite Glenda Seipp, Diocesan Stewardship Director to a future meeting), 3) My Parish app (Sr. Mary Jo hopes to sign on in January 2017), and 4) an open house with the Pastoral Council present to speak with attendees one on one.

**7. Whole Parish Faith Formation:** Judy reported that the theme of the January Faith Formation will be Epiphany. This year Faith Formation has stepped away from regular resources. There are currently two Bible Studies going: The three week Mary Bible Study which has been successful enough to consider doing other short Bible Studies and the Lectionary-based Bible Study that

meets every Thursday at 1 pm. There will be Children's Liturgy of the Word Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Parish Finances:** Fr. Ed reported that we have reached our Annual Catholic Appeal goal: with Blessed Trinity at 106% of goal and Spirit of Christ at 105% of goal.

Jim McDonald, Blessed Trinity Bookkeeper, reported that there is a \$15,000 deficit in parish stewardship. We have moved \$12,000 from savings but that needs to be replaced. We cannot continue deficit spending. If this continues, we will have to discuss what can be cut or given up. We haven't lost parishioners or contributors, but some people are giving less. Fr. Ed will push the Christmas Collection with announcements at Mass and in the Bulletin. There will be a new stewardship talk after Christmas.

**9. Parish Directory Update:** The new Directory will be published soon. There were about 102 sittings in the first group and 20-25 in the second group. There is a way to update the Directory as we get new parishioners.

**10. International Dinner:** The International Dinner will be held Friday, February 3, 2017. This fundraising event is almost fully profit. **Betty will coordinate.**

**11. Journey Weekend:** There will be a Journey Weekend January 21—22, 2017.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Pastoral Council is **Monday January 9, 2017.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ruth Licitra  
December 28, 2016