

Pastoral Council Meeting  
May 8, 2017  
Minutes

**Note:** The Pastoral Council did not meet in April.

**Present:** Members: David Neu, Pat Mellen, Betty Chrestenson, Joan Butler, Cathy Burlison, Elizabeth Licitra, Ruth Licitra, and Rita O'Neil.

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

**1. Gathering Prayer:** The Pastoral Council prayed the Prayer for the Pastoral Planning Process for the Diocese of Helena.

**2. Additions to the Agenda:** The following additions were suggested:

- a) Sr. Mary Jo suggested further discussion of a picnic with Grace Methodist,
- b) Cathy wanted to discuss changes in our partnership with Grace Methodist in Family Promise, and c) Deacon Ron wanted to provide updates on Pastoral Care.

**3. Reflections on the Triduum:** Fr. Ed led a discussion on this year's Triduum. Pastoral Council members suggested that the children should have an opportunity to reflect on the Triduum at Faith Formation before they are dismissed next year.

**4. Reflections on Team RCIA Gathering:** Fr. Ed led a discussion on the Team RCIA gathering April 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**5. Stewardship Follow Up:** Fr. Ed reported that the phone calls had been made to the targeted parishioners. Jim, our bookkeeper, has reported to Fr. Ed that the parish income has increased. The Easter collection was our largest ever at \$12,000. The diocese has begun accounting in the "cloud". This will allow the diocese to access certain portions of each parish's books: the diocese will help the diocese to prepare annual reports from parish level data. We are one of two initial parishes to try this new model.

**6. Clean up following parish events:** Fr. Ed began a discussion on a better way to deal with clean up after parish events. In the end, it was agreed that whoever is in charge of the event needs to find people to clean up afterward. **Action: Revisit in future agendas.**

Sr. Mary Jo suggested a Ministry Fair in the Fall.

**7. Maintain/Renew/Imagine (MRI):** The Finance Council approved a bid for replacing gutters and painting the exterior of the church building, and the exterior of Fr. Ed's house.

The parishioner responses to the last Whole Parish meeting are available online. Sr. Mary Jo and Fr. Ed will meet with Carl Posewitz, architect, to spruce up the presentation of the current plan by adding color and people. Then, Mr. Posewitz will develop a process for acquiring a cost estimate for the project as it now stands. The next MRI meeting will be the week ending June 2<sup>nd</sup> (before Fr. Ed leaves for the Holy Land). There are John Barnes, diocesan staff member, can tell us if we can raise the money needed for the project in a capital campaign. The next Whole Parish meeting is scheduled for the end of June. After the cost estimate has been approved, the contracted lighting engineer will be able to create a lighting plan. Hopefully, the new lights will be in place by next Lent.

**8. Outreach to new neighbors:** Betty and Judy have plan to put in place. The question is “how can we be of service to our neighborhood?” It was suggested that we attend the Franklin to Fort Neighborhood meetings as we also are a part of the neighborhood. Then we would have a better idea of neighborhood needs.

Betty has discussed with the city the possibility of putting a sign on the corner of Eaton and Mount. We would need to landscape and provide water to the area if we were to put a sign there. **Action: Revisit in future agendas.**

**9. MY PARISH App:** We need more people to participate in the MY PARISH App. Eventually we will be able to establish groups to communicate with each other more readily.

**10. Faith Formation:** Judy reported that Vacation Bible School (VBS) would be held at Blessed Trinity the week of June 12 thru 16 from 9 am to noon. She already has 2 students signed up. This year’s theme is Castles—A Mighty Fortress.

**11. Picnic with Grace Methodist:** Blessed Trinity and Grace Methodist will hold a joint picnic on Sunday, August 20, 2017 at Franklin Park. There will be a potluck with music. **Action: Sr. Mary Jo is working with the staff at Grace Methodist to organize this event.**

**12. Our partnership with Grace Methodist in Family Promise:** Cathy reported that Jamie Spaulding, Grace Methodist’s Family Promise coordinator, is stepping down.

**13. Parish Feedback to the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Process:** Blessed Trinity and Spirit of Christ parishioners meet on Thursday March 16, 2017 to provide input into the Diocesan Planning Process. Thirty-seven people attended the meeting. Sr. Mary Jo distributed the summary that Blessed Trinity/Spirit of Christ sent to the Diocese.

**14. Pastoral Care:** Deacon Ron reported that there would be 60 free Catholic Digests available this summer.

**15. Parish Directory:** The Parish Directory is here and available for those whose picture was taken.

**16. Confirmation Reflection:** Fr. Ed led a brief reflection on the Confirmation celebration led by Bishop Thomas on May 5, 2017.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be held on **Monday, July 10, 2017 at 7pm.**

Respectfully Submitted  
Ruth Licitra  
May 18, 2017