

Pastoral Council
January 8, 2018
Meeting Notes

Note: The meeting scheduled for December 4, 2018 was cancelled.

Present: Rita O'Neil, Betty Chrestenson, Pat Mellen, Cathy Burlison, David Neu, and Ruth Licitra.

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

1. **Gathering Prayer:** Fr. Ed led the Pastoral Council in singing Joy to the World.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** Security Concerns, Hospitality, and Selection of a New Council.
3. **Reflection on the Christmas/Advent Season:** The members of the Pastoral Council shared their reflections on the Christmas/Advent Season:
 - Mass was a priority.
 - Christmas Eve was a festive Mass
 - This was an opportunity for people to worship in community.
4. **No Room at the Inn (NRATI):** Sr. Mary Jo reported that No Room at the Inn brought in \$12,000. After expenses, Habitat for Humanity, Missoula Interfaith Cooperative, and Family Promise of Missoula each received \$2500. Sr. Mary Jo said that there will be a meeting of the No Room at the Inn committee to discuss the event. Among the questions that she proposed to discuss at this meeting is whether this event is the best use of Blessed Trinity's giving power. Some concerns voiced by the Council:
 - NRATI brings Christmas into the Worship Space. This overtakes our focus on Advent.
 - NRATI sucks energy away from Advent. Parishioners devote their energy instead to NRATI.
 - NRATI changes priority: transformative.
 - Maybe NRATI should focus on spirituality and not on the money raised.
 - Maybe it would be better to move NRATI later closer to peak need times (i.e.: summer)
5. **International Dinner:** The International Dinner will be held Friday, February 2, 2018, after the Mass of the Presentation, which starts at 6 pm. Betty will look for others to help her with the Dinner. Betty does not want to continue to chair this event. A free will offering will be taken.
6. **Annual Catholic Appeal:** Fr. Ed reported that Blessed Trinity is at 130% of goal with 61% of parishioners participating. Spirit of Christ is at 93% of goal with 69% participation. This year the Diocese will cut checks for the parishes who not only pledged over goal in 2017, but whose parishioners paid in over goal. Blessed Trinity is one of these parishes and is expecting a check for over \$1000.
7. **Spanish Mass:** Spanish Mass is celebrated once a month at St. Anthony Parish. This month, Mass will be held on January 14, 2018 at 6 pm. Sr. Mary Jo reported that about 100 attend this Mass. She also reminded the Council that the American Bishops have been very vocal about issues of immigration.
8. **Faith Formation:** Judy reported that the next Whole Parish Faith Formation will be held Sunday, February 4, 2018. She is planning another three week Bible Study, perhaps after Easter. Lectionary-based Bible Study and Seeing the Word Bible Study are continuing. The Youth Group is meeting regularly.

9. **Pastoral Care:** Ron reported that an English class at Loyola Sacred Heart made some personalized Christmas cards for shut ins. He had enough for residents at Hillside as well as others which he has been delivering. As always, he needs more volunteers.
10. **Maintain/Renew/Imagine (MRI):** Fr. Ed reported that the next Whole Parish Meeting will be held Sunday, January 28, 2018. The steering committee and the architect, Carl Posewitz, will meet prior to the Whole Parish meeting. The Whole Parish Meeting will look at the overall costs. Fr. Ed and Sr. Mary Jo need to meet with the Diocese to discuss how the money will be raised: if the parish wants to move forward with this project, we would need to figure out how to fund the project in a reasonable manner given our current size at present.
11. **Security Concerns:** Fr. Ed brought to the Council's attention our need to look at the security of the Parish in light of the recent shooting in a church in Texas. He pointed out that Saint Francis Xavier has certain safeguards in place (safety trainings for the ushers, etc.). He would like to install the camera security system we had discussed after the break ins in 2012. **The Pastoral Council agreed that Fr. Ed should move forward with this.**
12. **Lent:** Fr. Ed reminded the Council that Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2018, and that Easter is Sunday, April 1, 2018.
13. **Hospitality:** Fr. Ed and Sr. Mary Jo would like to form a Parish Event Committee that would meet once to assemble the key people involved in the social life of the parish to discern if the events have the proper weight. Perhaps, after looking at the Church calendar, they could plug in new events during the year. **Betty and Sr. Mary Jo will set up a meeting for this committee of about 10 people.**
14. **New Council:** Fr. Ed asked to discuss the placement of a New Council (the current Council's term expires in May 2018) at the next Pastoral Council Meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be held on Monday, February 5, 2018, at 7 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Licitra
January 9, 2018