

Pastoral Council Meeting  
February 5, 2018  
Notes

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

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

1. **Gathering Prayer:** Fr. Ed led the council in prayer.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda.
3. **Reflections on the Mass of the Presentation/International Dinner:** The council shared their thoughts on the Mass of Presentation/International Dinner:
  - There were not as many attendees as in the past (perhaps the Super Bowl weekend was a factor);
  - We made \$800. This is lower than usual;
  - There was a small turnout at Mass;
  - The Greeks were invited. A few were in attendance.
  - Ruth is to find out when a Food Permit is required for our events;
  - The candles at Mass lent an impressive ambiance.
4. **Ash Wednesday/Lent:** There is an insert in the Bulletin that lists the activities available during Lent this year. Vespers/Soup and Bread will be held on Wednesdays during Lent this year. The Liturgical Element of Silence will be our focus this year. One of our almsgiving focuses this year will be the Diocesan Mission in Guatemala. The mission suffered an estimated \$125,000 damage in last year's earthquake. There is significant damage to the convent and school that needs to be repaired before the rainy season begins. The bishop would also like to begin vocational training at the mission to help people be able to find employment in fields of sewing, auto mechanics and computers. It would cost about \$12,000 to start such a program. It is possible to use some of the Rice Bowl money as 25% is used for local programs for the needy. Fr. Ed suggested moving the Guatemala Mission pictures in the Social Hall into the Worship Space.
5. **Rite of Acceptance to the Order of Catechumens:** Fr. Ed reported that we have one catechumen this year, Lucy. She will be enrolled as a catechumen at the Rite of Election on Sunday, February 18, 2018 at the Cathedral in Helena. The Chrism Mass will be held on Monday, March 19, 2018 at the Cathedral. Prior to Mass, there will be a study day with Fr. Mark Francis from 12:30 pm until 3pm. Fr. Mark will discuss Multicultural Liturgy and Ministry. Fr. Mark is the President of the Catholic Theological Union.
6. **Review of the Whole Parish Meeting January 28, 2018:** There will be a Maintain/Renew/Imagine Steering Committee meeting February 8, 2018. The council had the following reflections regarding the Whole Parish Meeting:
  - People were concerned about being able to afford the project;
  - There was a good deal of negativity at some of the tables;
  - There was a concern that the money donated to this project would not be available for other projects such as the Annual Catholic Appeal;
  - Some thought that the project was doable after the three year commitment was broken into a monthly commitment;
  - What is the cost of doing only the things that need to be done?
  - We should compare the cost of doing the project with the cost of only doing what needs to be done. If the costs are close...

- The cost estimate is for the project as proposed. It is not overpriced. However, \$1 million is a lot of money. We need a reality check: is this realistic for us right now?
- How can we do this with empty seats?

Fr. Ed told the council that we should have many more members as the growth areas in Missoula are within our parish boundaries. However, none of the parishes in Missoula are growing. We do need to evangelize—but how? We would need either more staff or more volunteers.

What are the absolute necessities (maintenance) that must be done? We would need to at least address accessible doors, ADA compliant bathrooms, the sound and lighting systems, interior painting, fix the leaking font, and deal with the bleeding on the interior walls of the worship space.

- 7. Forming the Next Pastoral Council:** Fr. Ed reported that the current council's term is up in May 2018. He asked the council to discern individuals who could be nominated. Sr. Mary Jo said that she would compile a list of people who have been on previous Blessed Trinity Pastoral Councils.
- 8. Faith Formation:** Judy reported that the next few Faith Formations will involve mission.
- 9. Pastoral Care:** Ron reported that Marilyn has been making calls to the missing. A Loyola High School English class wrote a poem that was delivered along with Communion to patients residing at Hillside. The reaction was positive. Judy is to maintain a connection with Loyola.
- 10. Follow-Up on Security Concerns:** Fr. Ed reported that it would cost \$8-10 thousand dollars to install a camera security system. He feels that is too much. There is a system at Costco that costs \$800, but it is not installed. Betty offered to get the name of the officer who would be able to train the ushers and greeters on dealing with emergency situations.
- 11. Follow-Up on Social Life of Parish Meeting:** Sr. Mary Jo will set up a meeting of the key people involved in the Social Life of the Parish to map out a course of events in the social life of the parish. She and Betty will meet to plan out the meeting and a list of those to be invited.
- 12. Family Promise:** Cathy reported that our last Family Promise week was fully staffed.

The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be held **Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ruth Licitra  
February 12, 2018