

St. John the Evangelist Parish

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Fr. Michael Williams – Pastor – ex officio
Myron McCormick – Finance – ex officio
Rachel Charette – St. John’s

Marie Bardswich – St. John’s
Sue Quackenbush – St. John’s
Trudy Hinds – St. Bernardine’s

Minutes

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 @7pm in the Board Room

Our PPC met on February 13th and discussed the following pastoral issues:

OLD BUSINESS:

(1) Accessibility to our building – An update on our accessibility project

(2) 5 Year Pastoral Plan – Youth Ministry/Nithin Sunny - an update

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Parish Financial Update / 2018 Financial Report to Parish / 2019 Budget

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) 5 Year Pastoral Plan:

Social Concerns, Faith Formation & Spirituality, Pastoral Care, Worship, Youth, Future Planning

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Re: (1) The project is substantially complete. The new handrails are being manufactured by a subcontractor, and we are told it will take longer than a month to finish that work. In the meantime, temporary handrails have been installed on the stairs portion so that we have unhindered access to our main entrance. The top surface of the ramp also needs a final pour of concrete, but there is no rush to do that before the handrails are installed. In the Spring, volunteers will undertake to reinstall our sign and do the needed landscaping around our new ramp.

Re: (2) As reported at our last meeting, there were no youth who attended any of the youth group sessions hosted by Nithin Sunny. Based on that reality, and the equally low turnout at St. Andrew the Apostle Church, the contract with Nithin has been terminated. It was an effort worth trying, even though the results were disappointing.

In an effort to determine what, if anything, we might do to meet the needs or interests of the youth of our Parish, Fr. Michael asked the Confirmation Candidates the reasons they did not attend. A couple of youth indicated a strong interest in attending, but that the evening conflicted with another activity. The others were less interested in the youth group concept, saying it did not meet a need of theirs.

There was a lengthy discussion about youth and our efforts to evangelize them that followed, both here and in our discussion around our 5 Year Plan below. At the end of it, one general theme that emerged was the importance of Comprehensive Youth Ministry, and welcoming the active involvement of youth in all our ministries – making them feel a part of our community through their participation in all its activities. This echoes the same discussions and conclusions reached at our previous Council Meeting.

Re: Parish Financial Update/2018 Financial Report/2019 Budget

Myron distributed a spreadsheet showing the Parish revenues and expenditures on a month by month basis for 2018, with a comparison to our budgeted amounts. He also distributed a report for January of this year, compared to the 2019 budget amounts.

PPC accepted the 2018 report, as well as the 2019 budget, and approved the Report to the Parish, which is a condensed version of the full report. The Report to the Parish will be included in the Parish bulletin this weekend.

Re: NEW BUSINESS:

Before the 5 Year Pastoral Plan discussion began, PPC made the following decisions:

- We would not participate in the Ash Wednesday/Good Friday promotion offered by Dixie Lee
- We would lead the Stations of the Cross for the Parish on Friday, March 29th

A lengthy discussion followed around the six pastoral areas of concern, much of which was a continuation of our thoughts around ministry to youth. We also touched upon social concerns – given that Development and Peace will be focussing on refugees during Lent, we talked about sponsoring/supporting a child and/or family through Chalice or a similar organization. We will launch this in the Easter season as a continuation/follow up of the Lenten D&P program. We also touched upon Faith Formation & Spirituality – making reference to the various Lenten options available to us. Additionally, given the success of our Lenten Mission last year, Fr. Michael proposed that he would talk to Fr. Sam and Fr. Peter about hosting another one in the future. Finally, with reference to the New Evangelization Summit, there was an open discussion about the anticipated fruits of this particular project and how they might be measured in our parish. As always, one on one witness (authentic living of our faith) is the most effective means of allowing God's grace to work in others through us.

- Fr. Michael indicated he was considering hosting a Seder Meal on Holy Thursday this year; he received positive feedback from the PPC and will consider it further
- Fr. Michael indicated his reservations re: a celebration of his anniversary this year

The meeting ended at 8:45pm.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10th at 7pm.