

St Ann Pastoral Council Minutes

April 6, 2019

Pastoral Council members met at the Parish House on April 6, 2019. Those in attendance were President Janine Girzadas, Geoff Wendt, Marylou Marshall, Jim Oates, Nancy Kolasa, Bob Cattani, Mike Opat, Scott Stolarz and Father John. Members unable to attend were Diane Estep, Phil Farese, Phil Hargarten and John Goldman.

Special guests attending were Bishop Hying, Joe Estep, Matt and Cindy Block, Marsha Jerome, Perry Cartwright, Susan Allan, Jen Scriba, Lisa Oates, Karen Erminger, Terry Kolasa and Sister Melanie Rauh.

Bishop Hying opened the meeting by leading the Council and guests with a prayer at 12:50 pm.

The general business of the Pastoral Council was suspended in favor of discussing various ideas and plans with special guest Bishop Hying.

Bishop Hying introduced the following key discussion points –

- Synod 2017 – Bishop Hying reported on the success of Synod 2017 and how each parish chose 2 -3 faith initiatives to work on. He was pleased to note that Synod 2017 had a 100% participation rate. Bishop Hying noted that Synod 2017 will never be over. He posed the questions of how can we continue growing our parishes and how can we improve and stay true to the Church. Bishop Hying noted it is important to be able to change.
- Bishop Hying asked members and guests how can we include or encourage those parishes that no longer engage parishioners in their faith. Bishop Hying stated sometimes it's the little things that can make a huge difference.
- Bishop Hying suggested spreading the Word by engaging others through the initiatives of Synod 2017.
- Bishop Hying asked what the Diocese can do to help with getting the word out and working together with Parishes.
- Bishop Hying also gave an update on the 2019 Catholic Services Appeal. He said due to the loss of some key staff members, the Diocese decided to outsource the collection process. Most parishioners will not see much of a change in the process. Bishop Hying also noted that starting this year, any parish who meets their goal will received 10% back in addition to any amount raised over the goal.

Members of the Pastoral Council and guests discussed with Bishop Hying the various issues he raised. They also advised the Bishop on the events and programs held at St. Ann's.

- Janine gave Bishop Hying a copy of the Synod 2017 plan of action insert that will be placed in this weekend's bulletin. Several key areas were discussed such as increasing social media through the new website as well as Facebook.
- Jim Oates said the website will help any parishioner unable to attend Mass to access the bulletin and events happening at the Parish. Jim also noted the new website will help busy CCD parents keep track of class schedules.
- Father John noted the importance of the homily. The words spoken during the homily may ring true for parishioners and open their eyes to the Catholic faith.

Minutes approved May 19, 2019

St Ann Pastoral Council Minutes

- Susan Allan and Perry Cartwright discussed the importance of the Commissions in engaging all Parishioners to participate in the Advent and Lenten Food Drives, supporting Sojourner Truth House as well as the clothing and shoe drives held throughout the year.
- Bob Cattani spoke on the Haiti mission. Bob gave a brief history of how the Haiti mission evolved into an important mission for St. Ann's. Bob also spoke on the current political unrest in the country. Other members spoke on how supportive St. Ann's has been to the Haiti mission.
- Janine and Scott highlighted some of the special events St. Ann's holds such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Pancake Breakfast, Sunday treats and Chili Lunch. Sister Melanie and Marsha gave an update on the Stations of the Cross program and the Bible study series held by Sister Melanie and how some of these programs and events reach out to all parishioners and the surrounding community.
- Jim Oates spoke on the importance of the CCD program. Bishop Hying discussed with members the young people who stop attending Church after receiving confirmation. Bishop Hying asked how can Parishes combat this loss and in what ways Parishes can encourage young adults back to the Church.
- Jim Oates asked the Bishop about the closing of Churches and priest shortages. Bishop Hying stated the process will most likely be to combine resources such as one priest serving several parishes. Two or three Churches may combine their resources for sustainability and then eventually one of the Churches may close based on the recommendations or study by the combined pastoral councils. Over the next five years, there is anticipated to be a priest shortage however there are currently several seminarians who will become priests within the next decade.

Bishop Hying thanked Father John for the great hospitality shown by St. Ann's and the importance of discussing issues with each Parish to promote new ideas and solutions facing the Catholic Church of today.

The minutes from March 17, 2019 were reviewed. Jim Oates motioned to approve the minutes and Mike Opat seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Having no further business, Janine adjourned the meeting. Father John closed the meeting with a prayer at 2:55 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Kolasa.