



Parish Pastoral Council - Meeting Minutes

Date: June 11, 2019
Time: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Location: St John Neumann
Attendees:

- **Present:** Debbie Andrews, Mickey Custodio, Rick Durig, Fr. Doug Ebert, Dave Gerken (Trustee), Mary Hoffman, Mike Meirink, Patricia Ogbeide-Ihama, Robert Peterson, Michaela Willer
 - **Absent:** Tom Mahowald (Finance Council)
 - **Minutes:** Submitted by Mary Hoffman, Secretary
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Call to order: 7:00pm by Rick Durig

Mission Statement and Stewardship Prayer: Rick Durig

Pastor's Report: Fr. Doug

- *New Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Members:* Fr. Doug and Rick Durig welcomed the new members that were able to attend the June meeting – Ron Bisek and Michael Schmidt. A third new member, Pam Erkel, will join us in the fall.
- *State of the Parish:* Fr. Doug reported that attendance continues to be stable. There is a slight uptick in collections, but still not reaching projections.
- *Confirmations/First Communions:* There was approximately 100 Confirmations and 100 First Communions that took place in May.
- *Associate Pastor:* The new associate pastor, Fr. Joseph Connelly, will begin at SJN on Wednesday, June 12th. Fr. Peter Ly's last day is June 30th. Fr. Ly has been appointed to the Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Maplewood.

Marriage Ministry: Mickey Custodio

- Mickey discussed a proposed new ministry at SJN – a ministry for young married couples. The purpose of this ministry is to build community among younger couples within our parish with a focus on fellowship via casual and social activities. Its purpose is to also strengthen and deepen the relationship of each couple.
 - The new ministry will be initially guided by Joyce and Dan Driessen; couples will eventually take over the leadership. 15 women have already stepped forward to volunteer.

- The ministry will target couples under the age of 50 and will meet quarterly.
- A presentation was previously given to the Family and Community Life Committee. Unanimous approval was given by the committee.
- Rick Durig made a motion for approval by the Parish Pastoral Council and was seconded by Mary Hoffman. All approved.

Joint Committee Meetings: Rick Durig

- Discussion ensued about abbreviating the length of our joint committee meetings. Currently, the evening extends from 6:30pm to 9:30pm for PPC members and 6:30pm to 9:00pm for committee members. Several suggestions were made and discussed. Rick will create a final process based on the discussion and will present it for approval to Fr. Doug and the Council.
 - Committee Chairs will be contacted prior to the next joint committee session about any changes being made.

Finance Council Report: Rick Durig/Tom Mahowald (in absentia)

- Tom sent a written report that was read by Rick Durig. Discussion followed the report.
 - The budget was approved at the last Finance Council meeting. The new budget was based on the trend of a 1-2% annual decrease for the past several years. This is attributed to a slightly changing parishioner demographic.
 - The Finance Council decreased budgeted revenue by 1.5% for the next fiscal year and accordingly needed to lower some expenses to meet the collections forecast. In-person and mailed-in offerings as well as simplified giving are slightly below budget, while electronic giving (kiosks) are slightly above forecast. Holy Days are also above forecast.
 - Expenditures for certain capital improvements were approved using funds from Fund for the Future.
 - Fiscally, the parish is in good shape. This is due to expense control as well as a delay in filling some open positions. Looking forward, revenue will need to increase as day-to-day costs are increasing and contingency and unanticipated capital needs will arise. Stewardship as a way of life will continue to be a major endeavor within our parish.

Upcoming Council Retreat: Rick Durig

- This year's annual retreat will include both the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Council. The date has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 8th.

- Stewardship will be the primary focus of the retreat, with concentration on the four pillars of stewardship: *Prayer, Hospitality, Formation and Service*. The goal for both councils is to continue the work of the ad hoc stewardship committee by integrating the four pillars into the culture and fabric of our parish community.

Parish Pastoral Council Elections/Process Review: Mary Hoffman and Michaela Willer

- This year there was a robust list of candidates that were nominated to consider being on the Parish Pastoral Council. Eight of those nominated attended the discernment meeting on June 3rd. Three new members were elected: Ron Bisek, Pam Erkel and Michael Schmidt.
- Discussion ensued and input was gathered from both new and existing members regarding the process used this year.
 - Letters were sent to all nominees who in turn contacted the SJN office to inform whether or not they would attend the discernment meeting. For those who felt called to attend the meeting, it was suggested that a follow-up letter be sent to those attending that briefly explains the process that will take place that evening.
 - It was also suggested that the discernment questionnaire be sent out ahead of time to potential candidates who agree to attend the meeting. This would give the candidates more time for thoughtful reflection.

Deanery Council Report: Bob Peterson

- The Archdiocese is beginning a two-year process of prayer and consultation that will culminate in an archdiocesan synod.
 - The process is designed for Catholics to have ample opportunities to share their views on the pastoral needs of the local church. Many listening sessions will be held at various parishes from September thru March of the coming year. A list of dates and locations can be found in the *Catholic Spirit* newspaper. (The newspaper can be found online and extra copies are also in the gathering space of SJN.)

Ministry Accomplishments: Committee Liaisons

- **Justice and Charity**
 - One of the goals of Justice and Charity is to evaluate ministries with a focus on improvement and addressing changing needs. The Families Moving Forward Ministry was evaluated this past year. The evaluation process that was developed for this ministry can be used for future ministry evaluations.
 - Fall volunteer recruitment efforts went very well.

- There continues to be a plethora of activity going on within the ministries of the committee. *Just Faith* was able to get a grant for upcoming programming (e.g. cost of books that are read).
- *Families Moving Forward* is currently taking place at SJN. Three families are at our parish. The feedback has been very good this year.
- **Pastoral Care Committee**
 - All ministries are doing well and are very active. Some of these ministries include Prayer Shawls, Communion to Homebound, Funeral Ministry, Blood Pressure Checks, Befrienders, Care Center Ministry and Prayer Line Ministry.
 - The Appreciation Breakfast was very well attended. Approximately 35 parishioners were in attendance.
- **Family and Community Life**
 - The brochure was updated and used at the Ministry Fair.
 - There are many marriage ministries within this committee and they have been very well attended. The committee approved a new marriage ministry, guided by Dan and Joyce Driessen, for younger couples.
- **Faith Formation**
 - The committee has an abundance of energy and has been very busy this year with Confirmations, First Communions and Faith Formation – for both young parishioners and adults.
- **Worship**
 - The meetings have been well attended with both former and new members. John Peterson is the new chair.
 - Ministry participation numbers are up; the recruitment process proved to be successful.
- **Summary of Ministry Accomplishments:** Rick summarized that it was indeed a very successful parish year. While all parishes have encountered difficulties, St. John Neumann was able to sustain itself as a vibrant, well-functioning parish. Many parishioners continue to be very involved.

Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Next Meetings:

- Sunday, September 8, 2019 – Parish Pastoral and Finance Council Retreat
- Tuesday, September 10, 2019 – Joint Council/Committee Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, October 8, 2019 – Parish Pastoral Council meeting @ 7:00 pm